



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-96-022

Thursday

1 February 1996

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January 1996

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Terrorist Activity

Talks on Release of Power Workers Continue in Chechnya

LD0102134796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1306 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — Intermediaries, who are holding talks on the release of 29 Russian power sector workers, taken hostage in Chechnya, at Heat Power Plant No. 2 of Grozny, on January 16, have been moved to a "higher level of the Dudayev leadership," Nurdi Usamov, Director General of the Grozenergo joint-stock company, told TASS today. The Chechen government is not holding direct talks with the kidnappers, he said.

According to Nurdi Usamov, Dudayev supporters have not yet put forward their conditions for the release of the power sector workers in written form, and their oral demands "were formulated not quite clearly."

According to the information of Nurdi Usamov, the power sector workers are alive and in good health, and are kept in conditions, "which may be considered good in the current situation."

Russia: Released Hostages Arrive in Novosibirsk

LD0102111996 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 1 Feb 96

[Correspondent T. Ventsimerova video report from Novosibirsk on 31 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] Late in the evening of 31 January, a special flight arrived in Novosibirsk from Makhachkala. The aircraft was bringing home another five militiamen who had been held since 10 January in the village of Pervomayskoye by the Dudayevites. Four of them — Vladimir Nashchekin, Sergey Khomyakov, Sergey Yudin, and Andrey Shishkin — had been wounded. The fifth man to be released should have been Major Vasily Zhivotov, but he refused to leave the men in his charge. Eduard Semenov was given the opportunity to travel home after lots were drawn.

The lads were brought to Novosibirsk by representatives of Dagestan's Interior Ministry. Their actual liberation became possible thanks to their efforts as well as the initiative of the staff of Novosibirsk Internal Affairs Directorate, who specially flew into Dagestan. Colonel Akhmed Adiyeyev, the head of the militia in Khasavyurt [Dagestan], said that they had tried to free the Novosibirsk militia during the first days since they considered them their guests. Moreover, they had not employed weapons on their territory.

[Begin Adiyeyev recording] Naturally talks were conducted with Aslan Maskhadov, the chief of staff of the armed forces of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeriya. Maskhadov said: No, first of all, we will talk about the Dagestanis. So we held the first stage of the talks with Maskhadov and then we went on to the second stage. [end recording]

The remaining 12 Novosibirsk militiamen are alive and well according to the delegation. They are receiving decent treatment, and the Dagestanis claim in general that it is clearly inaccurate to consider the militiamen hostages.

[Begin Sergeant Major Semenov recording] Probably at the beginning, we were hostages, but after the breakthrough, we became prisoners-of-war. [end recording]

What conclusion can be drawn from the situation as it now stands? How can the 12 Novosibirsk militiamen left in Pervomayskoye be liberated?

[Begin Semenov recording] There is only one way out: that is for all the mothers, all of Novosibirsk, all of the Novosibirsk administration, to rise up. [end recording] [video shows radiant, uniformed militiamen descending from aircraft and receiving warm welcome; press conference]

Chechen Gunmen Keeping 'About 70' Civilian Hostages

LD3101150096 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — Chechen separatist groups currently are holding about 70 hostages in addition to Russian servicemen, a top-ranking official in one of Russia's power departments told INTERFAX Wednesday.

Among them are 29 power plant workers from Grozny, 29 Stavropol and Penza construction workers, two Orthodox clergymen, several officials from the Moscow-backed Chechen government and several local citizens.

"We are undertaking appropriate efforts to free hostages. We know where these people are staying. We hope that they will be freed in the near future," the source said.

"Despite reassurances of Chechen field commander Akhmed Zakayev on noninvolvement of his subordinates in kidnapping Father Sergey and Father Anatoliy, there is information that the gunmen took the Orthodox clergymen as hostages," he told INTERFAX.

It is not ruled out that Russian Orthodox clergymen Father Sergey and Father Anatoliy, on a mission to search for MIAs, were kidnapped in order to receive

a ransom, said Cochairman of the Union of Russian Muslims Abduly-Vakhid Niyazov. He views seizure of hostages as "a provocation aimed at a greater sharpening of the situation in Chechnya."

Chechen Leaders Meet Elders To Discuss Hostage Release

*LD3101204196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1948 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[By Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The Chechen government met Chechen elders on Wednesday to discuss the release of hostages being held by rebel forces.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS after the meeting, Vice-prime Minister Yunadiy Usamov said they discussed the possibility of exchanging Russian hostages for people who are staying in filtration camps and against whom no criminal charges have been brought.

"We did not discuss the release of militants," he said.

Dagestan: Gudermes Official Discusses Exchanging Prisoners

*LD3101215796 Moscow NTV in Russian
1900 GMT 30 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of the public and the authorities of Dagestan arrived in the village of Novogroznenskiy today. They brought another two corpses of fighters from Raduyev's group. The Dagestanis met Wahid, the field commander of Gudermes district, to discuss the conditions for the release of the Novosibirsk militia men seized by the fighters in Pervomayskoye. However, Wahid himself does not consider these contacts to be negotiations.

[Begin Wahid recording] The mass media — television — are always saying that negotiations are underway, negotiations are underway in Novogroznenskiy - that's just not serious. They appeared once. We spoke. Yesterday we discussed several versions. They came yesterday. We gave them five wounded soldiers, rather militia men, on the condition that these people were taken home to their parents in Novosibirsk and that they should say what the situation here is like. [end recording]

Wahid stated that the Russian military federal authorities in Chechnya were not showing the slightest interest in the talks. The conditions for the release of the Novosibirsk men are the same: exchange for the fighters on the principle of all for all. We weren't allowed to film the militia men being held prisoner in the surrounding villages.

[Begin Wahid recording] There is the danger that the village will be shelled either from a helicopter or from an airplane if we show where these people are, do you see? Fighters or militia men may die — that's not the problem — but there are civilians there. It is for the sake of the safety of these militia and the civilian population in that village that we cannot show you where they are - out of this consideration alone. [end recording]

Officially, the talks are considered to have been broken off for three days. When the 12 remaining Novosibirsk militia men are released now depends a great deal on whether the command of the Russian armed forces in Chechnya holds direct talks with Dudayev's men. This is Aleksey Pobortsev and Anatoliy Vaskin, for NTV from Chechnya.

Over 100 Chechen Militants Agree to Yeltsin's Amnesty

*LD3101142096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1259 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[By Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Over a hundred Chechen militants have taken advantage of the right to return to peaceful life granted by the Russian president in his decree of December 1, 1995 "On legal guarantees to members of illegal armed formations who voluntarily cease illegal activities," said Secretary of the Chechen Security Council, deputy chairman of the Commission on legal guarantees to members of illegal armed formations, Ruslan Tsakayev.

According to Tsakayev, there are many more people wishing to lay down arms. Mediators from major groups of Chechen militants, predominantly from the Argun and Shali regions, appeal to the Commission daily, he said. Tsakayev said that the process of surrender was hampered by threats coming from Dudayev's entourage, who have the blood of many people on their hands, and fears of being prosecuted by law enforcement bodies under conditions of instability in the republic.

"However, when the situation stabilizes we expect a great many appeals from participants of illegal armed formations," Tsakayev said. Many militants and mainly young people seek to avoid publicity over their involvement in illegal armed formations. In this connection, the Commission is studying alternative variants to satisfy their appeals, Tsakayev said.

Chechnya: Basayev, Others View Outcome of Raduyev Operation

MM3101121096 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 96 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Yevtushenko incorporating interviews with Shamil Basayev and others; date and place of interviews not given: "Basayev Found and Questioned, Only Not by Investigators and Counterintelligence Staffers, But by Our Correspondent Aleksandr Yevtushenko"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I don't know how it was at the time of the seizure of Kizlyar Hospital or the breaking of the cordon around Pervomayskoye — I was not there at the time — but in Novogroznoye, when the "postmortem" began, Salman Raduyev did not look like a hero.

After all, what did the Chechen resistance movement gain from this vainglorious act by a former komсомol apparatchik? On the credit side — two burned-out helicopters and a wrecked helicopter landing pad at Kizlyar. On the debit side — out of 256 fighters, some 80 killed and 30 captured. That is just according to Raduyev's own words. So how do Chechnya's recognized resistance leaders regard Raduyev's operation?

I asked Basayev why he was not at Kizlyar, nor at Pervomayskoye.

"I still have a brain in my head," came the reply. "Haven't we got enough to do in Chechnya? Isn't Russia big enough? Of course, there is not a sovereign state of Dagestan, still less Avaria (Pervomayskoye was a village inhabited by Avars — editor's note). But they are our neighbors, we share the same faith. Raduyev conceived the operation but did not think it through."

I asked Basayev in passing whether he had anything to do with the seizure of the ferry Avrasya.

"Three of the group who seized the ship are old friends of mine, we fought together in Abkhazia. Not so long ago they were my guests. And we discussed a plan to seize a ship. But I don't know why they gave themselves up without taking the matter to its conclusion."

Just then Khunkar Pasha Israpilov, "commander of the southeastern salient of the Chechen resistance," came up. It had been thought that he had been killed while breaking out of the cordon. It turns out that he was only wounded.

[Yevtushenko] Khunkar, as someone who took part in Raduyev's operation, what do you think of it?

[Israpilov] I realized, of course, that it was adventurist. But when I realized that Raduyev had set off with only

light arms, taking with him many young guys with no experience of fighting, I followed. We were sure there would be serious fighting, so we grabbed grenade throwers, mortars, ammunition — as much as we could carry. [Israpilov ends]

Raduyev himself attributes this turn of events to Russian counterintelligence, which patently misled him.

[Raduyev] I learned from a reliable source — who had never let me down before — that eight combat helicopters and a large number of rockets would be arriving in Kizlyar 8 January. After an hour and a half of fighting, we achieved our task and routed the base. But neither the helicopters nor the munitions were there. I now think we were deliberately fed this "disinformation" by the Russian special services.

[Yevtushenko] How did you get out of Pervomayskoye?

[Raduyev] We learned from radio interception that the village would be shelled by "Grad" launchers before dawn. There was no choice, we had to break through. After breaching the siege, we reached the Terek, divided into groups, and left one group as cover. [Raduyev ends]

After reaching Chechen territory, when it grew light, the gunmen, together with the hostages, were caught up by combat helicopters. And the hunt began. The "choppers" dived straight at the fleeing people and shot at them point-blank with machine guns.

"It is not true that the gunmen used us as cover, as human shields," one of the captured policemen from Novosibirsk told me in Novogroznoye.

The mufti of Chechnya urged that all the gunmen who were killed should not be taken to their various native settlements, but buried in a single cemetery as men who fell in the jihad. And the dead men's relatives agreed. But what is to be the fate of those who survived? Not the gunmen — that is more or less clear, but the Novosibirsk policemen. There are hopes that the talks on handing them over to the Russian side will end successfully. But what then?...

Chechnya: Dozen Gunmen Rob Food Warehouse in Grozny

LD3101141496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1257 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — A dozen of gunmen arrived on a KAMAZ truck to a food warehouse in the Staropromyslovskiy district of Grozny early on Wednesday.

disarmed the guards and took food away on the truck, a source in Chechen law enforcement agencies told Tass.

The source said the attackers were firing in the air and nobody was wounded.

They took the food and the weapons of the guards with them, the source added.

Military Activity

Friendly Fire Incident in Chechnya; Villagers Protest

LD3101161996 Moscow NTV in Russian
1900 GMT 30 Jan 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Over the past 24 hours, two Federal Border Services staff died in Grozny. Our special correspondents in Chechnya learned very unusual details of that incident:

[Correspondent] Gunshots have long been normal sounds of town life in Grozny. [Passage omitted: soldiers fire at fighters and vice versa, nighttime is a dangerous time]

Last night, two men of the Federal Border Service were killed in Grozny. They were shot by Russian soldiers. At approximately 2330, a red Niva car with four Federal Border Service staff and a bus passed a position of the 63d Interior Troops' regiment in Staropromyslovskiy district. According to the soldiers, they did not stop after warning shots were fired, and as a result, both motor vehicles were literally riddled with bullets. Two men of the State Security Service were wounded. Two died on the spot. The driver of the bus was wounded but not seriously. Criminal proceedings have been launched.

A whole crowd of local people gathered at the scene of the incident, convinced that a bus with civilians had been shot at. The fact of the matter is that the tragic events of today [30 January] are the fourth to occur on that spot. They chanted: "Troops Out!". They stopped armored vehicles and set up barricades on the road. The military are trying not to get involved in what is happening.

An exit on the northern outskirts of Grozny was closed by the inhabitants of the village of (?Raduzhnoye), who were indignant at yesterday's operation to clear the village.

It seems that the closure of roads is becoming typical, but is the least harmful form of protest by Chechens.

This is (?Sergey Karelin), Dmitriy Serpukhin, (?Yevgeniy Poloyk) for NTV, Grozny. [video shows crowd, armored personnel carrier, checkpoint, soldiers check-

ing cars, bloodstained car riddled with bullets, bus with shattered windows, barricade on road]

Chechen Leader Zavgayev Creates Patrol Service Regiment

LD3101192096 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1717 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — Head of the Chechen republic Doku Zavgayev Wednesday signed a decree on creating a patrol service regiment, our INTERFAX correspondent reports from the Chechen capital Grozny.

The strength of this unit is to be 700 people, according to the document. The regiment is being created to ensure the safety of citizens and to support public order.

Zavgayev chaired a conference with the deputy chairmen of the Chechen parliament the same day in Grozny.

The conference discussed a draft agreement between different branches of the Chechen and Russian national economy "bearing in mind the republic's special status," Zavgayev's press secretary Ruslan Martagov told INTERFAX. It was decided to use the agreement signed by Russia with Yakutia and Bashkortostan in this sphere as a basis for the document, according to Martagov.

Russian Commander Calls Talks With Chechens 'Useless'

LD3101204396 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1948 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — The federal troop commander in Chechnya, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, is confident that talks with gunmen loyal to Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev are useless.

"Last year's mistake when we tried to talk to Dudayev should be done away with," Tikhomirov told a press conference in Grozny Wednesday.

"There is nothing to talk about. We are not interested in their opinion," he added.

Though the federal forces did not carry out any large-scale operations in January, "this is not evidence of our weakness," he added.

Tikhomirov said the federal command had designed a number of operations against the gunmen and plans to create "peace zones" in Chechnya.

"A treaty on the creation of such a zone will be signed with each district, after which troops will be pulled out of its territory," he underlined.

He said that separate armed gangs numbering 10 to 40 members each are currently acting in Chechnya, but there are no groups united by a joint command or staff which could organize their operations against federal troops.

These armed groups act like normal gangs controlling certain territories, though they have armored vehicles, artillery pieces and firearms, said Tikhomirov.

He said that the gangs extort money from the Chechen population and receive funds from abroad.

Tikhomirov believes that there are no grounds for the pompous comments by pro-Dudayev figures about the sovereignty and independence of Chechnya.

Political Reaction

Nonfulfillment of Chechnya Peace Agreement Examined

MM3101142196 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 30 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Pavel Anokhin: "Not a Single Point of the Agreement on the Military Package Has Been Fulfilled, Through the Fault of Dudayev's Supporters. The Agreement on the Peaceful Settlement of the Situation in the Chechen Republic Was Signed Six Months Ago Today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The document provides for the cessation of combat operations, the release of persons detained by force, the disarmament of illegally armed formations, a gradual withdrawal of troops, and the cessation of terrorist actions and sabotage. The practical implementation of the accords stipulated, in particular, the immediate issue of cease-fire orders by both the warring sides, the setting up of a Special Monitoring Commission, and the liberation by both sides of persons detained by force on the wholesale-exchange principle within one week of the signing of the agreement...

The Chechen Republic delegation, on top of all this, condemned all terrorist acts and undertook to assist the Russian side to seek out and arrest Shamil Basayev and his group, who are accused of committing the terrorist act in Budennovsk. Among the guarantors of the fulfillment of the agreement is Aslan Maskhadov, chief of the Chechen Armed Forces Main Staff.

What progress has been made on implementing the accords in reality? A convincing answer to this question is provided by the opinions of those involved in fulfilling the agreements in practice.

The Military Point of View

Lieutenant General Anatoliy Shkirko, Russian Federation deputy minister of internal affairs, commander of the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] internal Troops, and for a long period commander of the Joint Federal Troops in Chechnya:

"I believe that not a single point of the agreement on military questions has been implemented, through the fault of the Dudayev side. The cease-fire order signed by Aslan Maskhadov was simply not fulfilled. Not one of Dudayev's armed formations has laid down its arms as stipulated by the document. In signing it we harbored no illusions and realized that Dudayev's supporters would not rush to surrender their weapons right away. All the same, we hoped for good sense on their part; but the only response has been terrorist acts, sabotage, and ambushes. In the past six months the internal troops alone have lost 158 men killed and 660 wounded.

"The actions by Dudayev's gunmen in Gudermes, Kizlyar, and Pervomayskoye torpedoed the agreement that was elaborated with such difficulty six months ago. At any rate, today it is unthinkable to conduct further peace negotiations on the Chechen conflict with Aslan Maskhadov, who has had a hand in planning and carrying out barbarous terrorist acts.

"In the current situation I attach great hope to the inter-Chechen dialogue, and I believe in its reality. The majority of the Chechen people are clearly weary of the war and long for peace, and they must be helped in this. Unfortunately, Dudayev's supporters are committed to war, and stop at nothing."

Lieutenant General Stanislav Kavun, deputy commander of the Russian Federation MVD Internal Troops:

"I have personally entered many times into negotiations with Dudayev's supporters on the fulfillment of points of the agreement, and I have formed the impression that they are two-faced in conducting such talks. To the outside world they demonstrate readiness to cooperate, while in reality they are cunning and treacherous.

"For instance, at Aslan Maskhadov's request, servicemen were assigned to ensure him safe conduct through the federal troops' checkpoints and to escort him to a prearranged spot. One fine day the two parliamentarians — Lieutenant Colonel Maksimenko and Private Moroz — were treacherously seized by the Chechens, something which did not even happen in the Yugoslavian war.

"Moreover, Dudayev's supporters have gone beyond anything the world has seen before as far as the level of terrorism is concerned. For example, there is nothing

in world practice comparable to their terrorist act near Pervomayskoye, neither in terms of the number of hostages, nor in terms of the weapons amassed or the objective and scale of their actions. I think that we are being too soft with Dudayev's supporters and are trying to meet them half-way too much, which they take for weakness. The negotiating process should continue, but not for the sake of the process itself. In my opinion, we should take a tougher approach and back it up with both economic and military measures, if the opposing side organizes provocation. I consider the warning given to the federal troops by their commanders to open fire for effect in response to any provocation to be entirely appropriate.

"I think that it is time to cease talk of withdrawing troops from Chechnya. It is Russian Federation territory, and the Constitution gives the Russian Federation president and government the right to maintain troops where necessary in the numbers the situation requires. Otherwise you could end up arguing for the withdrawal of troops from, say, Tatarstan, Moscow, or Nizhniy Novgorod."

"Unfortunately, too much in our country has been demolished and eroded, although the time has come to put Russia's interests high above all else!"

Lieutenant General Vyacheslav Tikhomorov, commander of the Temporary Federal Forces in Chechnya:

"I believe that the situation in the region is determined by the fact that the so-called politician Dudayev and his comrades-in-arms have become common bandits. All the same, the basis of achieving peace in Chechnya should be not only military operations, but also a broad public dialogue to discuss the entire range of problems on the basis of the Russian Federation president's edicts. Military measures should bear an auxiliary character, ensuring political dialogue. The duty of the Armed Forces and the MVD is to protect the lives and property of Russian Federation citizens in the Chechen Republic."

"The events of recent months and the bandits' terrorist acts show that this so-called national liberation movement is increasingly losing its national roots, turning into Dudayevism [dudayevshchina] — a movement of mercenaries, infinitely remote from the hopes and needs of its people."

The Federal Center's Position

Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, Russian Federation minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy:

"The federal forces will continue their temporary operations against specific bandit formations in Chechen, but strong-arm methods will be employed in the battle with Dudayev's supporters in close connection with

the development of the political process for the peaceful settlement of the crisis in Chechnya.

"As a result of the talks no less than 10,000 of Dudayev's supporters have left him. Another achievement of the negotiating process is the fact that the image of Russia as their enemy fostered by Dudayev has been destroyed in the eyes of both the Chechens and the other Caucasian peoples."

State Duma Deputy Vladimir Zorin, a representative of the Duma Committee on Nationalities Affairs, first deputy leader of the territorial administration of the organs of Russian Federation executive power in the Chechen Republic:

"The tragic events in Dagestan and the numerous hostage seizures in Grozny itself and other regions of the republic have created an intrinsically new situation that will lead to a change in the federal center's policy toward Chechnya itself..."

"The battle in Chechnya is not just against separatism, but with a separatism that is interlocked with criminal structures. This intrinsically new phenomenon requires not simply the coordination, but the profound consolidation of all the branches of power and public formations that uphold principles of statehood..."

"In this respect it is essential to legitimize the processes that have already recommended themselves successfully in practice: people's diplomacy and an inter-Chechen dialogue."

The Regional Authority's Opinion

Akhsarbek Galazov, president of the Republic of North Ossetia:

"Neither Dzhokhar Dudayev, nor his supporters want any agreements; they want a second Caucasian war, but all their exertions are doomed to failure. I am the leader of North Ossetia, and no one will drag our republic into such a war. I know Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachayevo-Cherkessia well. The peoples of these republics have shown wisdom and not allowed themselves to be duped by Dudayev's supporters. Multinational Dagestan also showed restraint and wisdom during its recent tragedy."

"But the pacification of the entire Caucasian region depends on the stabilization of life in Chechnya, and we must all solve its problems together."

State Duma Deputy Ibragim Suleymenov, military commissar to Chechnya:

"Peace in Chechnya can mean only one thing — the full disarmament of the bandit formations, which following

the bloody events in Gudermes and Kizlyar have lost the faith of the people, and are now just acting as robbers using the services of mercenaries."

Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Republic:

"The agreement was scuppered by Dudayev's side. Unfortunately, federal troops have sometimes succumbed to their provocation.

"Nevertheless, the situation in the republic is gradually returning to normal. Follow the Russian president's edict on legal guarantees for those who have no blood on their consciences, hundreds of gunmen have already laid down their arms.

"We cannot now continue to divide the people into someone or other's supporters or opponents; we must unite the people and reconcile them. The majority of the Chechen people reject war as a solution to the problem — the guarantee of this is the inter-Chechen dialogue. Dudayev's supporters should not be given a national hue. Neither Basayev, nor Raduyev uphold national customs and traditions; they have perpetrated violence against others and put themselves outside the framework of Chechen traditions. A bandit is a bandit whether in Grozny, Moscow, or Vologda."

Russia: Yavlinskiy Urges Action To End War in Chechnya

MM3101164696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
1 Feb 96 pp 1-2

[Article by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy: "Everyone Except a Few Dealers Is Opposed to This Slaughter"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia's patriotic and democratic forces have recently stepped up their protest against the shameful war unleashed by the Kremlin in Chechnya — a war which has already cost our peoples many tens of thousands of destroyed and maimed lives.

In the first few days of the new year 100 prominent representatives of Moscow's scientific and creative intelligentsia sent President Yeltsin an open letter calling on him to immediately stop the war. They were supported by more than 60 cultural figures from St. Petersburg.

Two weeks previously IZVESTIYA had published an article by the journalist Yuriy Burtin containing a specific plan for resolving the Chechnya conflict.

After the Kizlyar hostage-taking, I put similar proposals to Boris Yeltsin, Dzhokhar Dudayev, and Doku Zavgayev. I asked the leaders of all three sides involved in the conflict to urgently state their attitude to these proposals and, should they agree to them, to make them the basis of talks which should be urgently resumed with-

out any preconditions and at the highest level. Should they totally or partially disagree with them, I asked that they provide the public with reasoned objections, which could also ultimately help to bring the sides' positions closer together.

Depressed by the events in Pervomayskoye — where, through the fault of the president and his "power" ministers, an operation to free the hostages turned into an operation to destroy them — four prestigious public figures (Sergey Alekseyev, Yegor Gaydar, Sergey Kovalev, and Otto Latsis) publicly announced that they were quitting the Presidential Council.

The "YABLoK" faction then collected signatures in support of placing on the State Duma agenda the question of a vote of no-confidence in a government which had allowed military operations to move into Dagestani territory and result in the slaughter in Pervomayskoye. (Unfortunately, the other factions, including the Communists — who had repeatedly stated that they were allegedly opposed to the war in Chechnya — failed to support our initiative.)

Finally, on 29 January [Nizhniy Novgorod Governor] Boris Nemtsov handed the Russian president 1 million signatures from Nizhniy Novgorod people demanding an end to the war in Chechnya. The fact that virtually every inhabitant of one of Russia's cities backed this demand indisputably proves that apart from a few shady dealers on both sides of the firing line, all of Russia is against the war.

It is a great shame that so far all these approaches and proposals have gone unanswered — the powers that be are deaf to the voice of the people.

Were I to become Russian president I would immediately end this senseless war. Just as, I am sure, any politician with a sense of responsibility for his motherland and for the lives of its citizens would act. But there are still four months to go until [the] 16 June [presidential poll], and many new rivers of blood could be spilled in that time. Consequently, I am again appealing to those making the decisions today.

The plan for a peace settlement to the Russo-Chechen conflict is extremely clear and simple.

1. In order to avoid new casualties on both sides, federal troops would be immediately and completely withdrawn from Chechnya. This should be preceded by just two steps taken by the warring factions to meet each other halfway:

— in order to avert an "Afghan" scenario, D. Dudayev and D. Zavgayev should conclude something akin to a nonaggression pact;

— both Chechen sides should pledge that weapons will not proliferate from Chechnya to adjoining Russian territories, and that the republic will be gradually demilitarized.

2. After a careful discussion of all the "pros" and "cons" the question of the Chechen Republic's status will be decided by its own population in a republicwide referendum. The interim status in the period until the referendum will be worked out on a mutually acceptable basis as part of the Russo-Chechen talks on a range of specific political, legal, and economic issues.

I make the following appeal to President Yeltsin and Premier Chernomyrdin — the end of the war in Chechnya depends exclusively on your good will. Stop the war, stop sending our young fellow countrymen to kill and be killed for who knows what.

I appeal to my colleagues, deputies in both houses of the Federal Assembly — responsibility for the continuation of the war in Chechnya is yours as well. The State Duma and the Federation Council have considerable opportunities to restore peace by force of law. Dragging your feet and being evasive or conformist means dooming an increasing number of people to death and suffering.

I appeal to Dzhokhar Dudayev, Aslan Maskhadov, all the Chechen field commanders and fighters, and the entire Chechen Republic population — help to restore peace and harmony between our peoples. Do not give in to feelings of hatred and revenge, do not give in to provocations, do not create excuses for delaying an end to the war. As a first step begin the immediate release of the hostages.

I appeal to the democratic public to hold a wide-ranging conference in Moscow in the very near future aimed at discussing ways to reach a peaceful settlement in Chechnya. Such a conference with the participation of political parties, the trade unions, human rights, antiwar, and other public organizations, scientific and cultural figures, Federal Assembly deputies, and representatives of various political forces from the Chechen Republic would draw up an agreed position on the issue — one which no authorities could ignore.

I appeal to the leaders of all Federation components and to all Russian citizens — support the initiative of the people of Nizhny Novgorod. Aside from collecting signatures, you could express your will through, for instance, regional legislative assembly or city Duma decisions. If we launch a massive popular movement to get the troops out and end the war, there is no force which could stand in its way.

Zavgayev Says Chechnya To Sign Accords With Moscow

*LD3101220296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2104 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[By Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The Chechen government intends to sign 16 power-sharing agreements with Moscow, Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev told ITAR-TASS and the RIA Novosti agency on Wednesday.

In particular, the agreements, which are supposed to be signed at the level of the prime minister of Russia, concern environmental protection, the division of state property, customs and banking activities, credit and currency policy, as well as anti-crime measures, public health care and culture.

These documents are being prepared within the framework of the implementation of the agreement "On Fundamental Principles of Relations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic" which was signed in Moscow on December 13, 1995, Zavgayev said.

He expects these agreements to be signed in mid-February.

Chechnya's Zavgayev Said Guided by Own Principles

*MK0102091196 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian
No. 4, 28 Jan-4 Feb 96 (Signed to press 29 Jan 96) p 6*

[Report by Dmitriy Balburov: "Collaboration, the Chechen Way"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] From the very outset of the war in the Caucasus, the Kremlin has been adhering to a very strange principle: It has been doing everything to discredit its Chechen allies and, vice versa, to exalt and glorify its enemies.

The anti-Dudayevite opposition headed by Umar Avturkhanov first appeared in Chechnya not thanks to "the arm of Moscow," but as a result of a purposeful policy pursued by Dzhokhar Dudayev, who, for the first time in Chechen history, started to divide his countrymen into "full-blooded" and "non-full-blooded" ones. It was as late as in 1994 that Moscow started to size up Avturkhanov and his friends, and when the political situation demanded this, it started to "feed" them with money and arms.

The lot of Salambek Khadzhiev, who became the head of the national revival government in the terrible

January of 1995, is very significant in this respect. One can only guess at Khadzhiyev's motives when he agreed to take this post, but he had no doubts as to the fact that some time later he would become politically dead. Khadzhiyev's personality evoked the greatest hatred in western areas of Chechnya, a traditional stronghold of Dudayev and his clan, but this notwithstanding, the pro-Moscow premier went there several times. During peace negotiations last summer, the Russian delegation turned its back on Khadzhiyev's government, demonstrating a complete disregard for him, whereas Dudayev's representatives were treated with the utmost respect. They were assured unimpeded passage through all checkpoints of the federal forces and given a separate mansion in the Khan-Kala area. Khadzhiyev and his people had to resign themselves to the dismissive attitude of Russian generals and the contempt of many Chechens, who regarded them as traitors.

Doku Zavgayev, who replaced Khadzhiyev in the post of premier, also cannot boast of enjoying complete mutual understanding with the federal authorities who have summoned him. Zavgayev is well received at the Kremlin, and Oleg Lobov, the president's envoy in Chechnya, is treating him in a demonstratively loyal way. When situation gets aggravated, however, he is the last one whose opinion the generals listen to. This happened in Gudermes last December, and the same happened in Pervomayskoye. The Kremlin's disregard for its Chechen protégés undermines, in the common people's eyes, not only their authority, but above all the remainder of the respect for the Kremlin itself.

Zavgayev, however, would have been no Chechen had he unconditionally sided with Moscow and turned his back on his people. No one should be misled by his emphatically federalist statements and grandiose inauguration with the participation of Russian generals. Zavgayev is guided in his actions by his own ideas of what is useful and expedient. At any rate, the head of the republic will find a common language with any Chechen, and especially with descendants of his teyp [kinship group]. Gendergnoy, one of the largest in Chechnya. [passage omitted]

Russia: Gaydar Backs Campaign For End to Chechen Conflict

LD3101142596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1147 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Yegor Gaydar, leader of the "Russia's Democratic Choice" party, called to support the initiative put forward by Governor of Nizhny Novgorod Boris Nemtsov and collect signatures all over Russia demanding to end the war in Chechnya.

An address forwarded by Gaydar's party to ITAR-TASS today said that from the very beginning the party took a tough stance, persistently coming out against the war. Gaydar believes that the easiest way to end the war in Chechnya in the present circumstances is to collect signatures against the war.

Earlier reports said that over a million signatures against the war had been collected in the Nizhny Novgorod region in a short period of time.

Chechen Association in Yaroslavl To Bar Entry to Gunmen

LD3001165196 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1459 GMT 30 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YAROSLAVL, Jan 30 (INTERFAX) — The Yaroslavl association Vaynakh which unites the local Chechen-Ingush diaspora "will not permit the worsening of tension and terrorist acts and will not let gunmen enter the region," says a statement of the Vaynakh leadership circulated Tuesday.

The document was adopted due to mass media reports on acts of terror being prepared by Chechen gunmen in Moscow and Yaroslavl.

Authors of this statement expressed "an official protest against those who missed Raduyev in Pervomayskiy and are now looking for him in Yaroslavl." The Council of Elders of the local Vainakh association "is in control of the whole Chechen-Ingush diaspora in Yaroslavl," the document said.

The region's Federal Security Service told INTERFAX that the situation in Yaroslavl remains calm.

Decree Details Compensation for Victims in Dagestan

MM3101144396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 30 Jan 96 p 3

[Decree No. 58 of the Russian Federation Government "On Rendering Assistance to the Victims of the Terrorist Act in the Republic of Dagestan in January 1996," dated 23 January 1996, Moscow, and signed by Russian Federation Government chairman V. Chernomyrdin; published under the general heading: "Dagestan: Wounds Will Not Be Quick to Heal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to render assistance to the victims of the terrorist act in January 1996 in the Republic of Dagestan, the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. In the event of the death of or injury (wound, trauma, contusion) to victims of the terrorist act in the Republic of Dagestan, once-only material assistance will be paid:

— to members of the families of the dead — wives (husbands), children under 18 (students up to the age of 23), or older, if they became invalids before reaching 18, fathers, and mothers — 200 times minimum monthly pay in equal shares to each member of the family;

— to people who have become group I and group II invalids as a result of their injuries (wound, trauma, contusion) — 100 times monthly minimum pay; to those who are group III invalids — 50 times the minimum monthly pay;

— to people who sustained serious injury (wound, trauma, contusion) — 30 times the minimum monthly pay;

— to people who sustained light injury (wound, trauma, contusion) — 15 times the minimum monthly pay.

Once-only material assistance will not be paid to people covered by compulsory state personal insurance in cases and in accordance with the procedure laid down by Russian Federation legislation.

2. Compensation for people whose property or housing was damaged as a result of the terrorist act will be paid in accordance with the norms established by the Government of the Republic of Dagestan in conjunction with the Russian Federation Construction Ministry on the basis of the actual damage caused.

3. Medical institutions' personnel among the civilians who have been actively involved in giving medical assistance to the victims in the aftermath of the terrorist act will be paid once-only material assistance amounting to 15 times minimum monthly pay.

In connection with their being dispatched to the Republic of Dagestan to participate in the elimination of the

aftermath of the terrorist act, the aforementioned people will be covered by the guarantees and compensation specified by point 4 of 31 December 1994 decree No. 1440 of the Russian Federation Government "On the conditions of pay and on granting extra concessions to working people in the Chechen Republic" (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1995, No. 2, p 161).

4. Individual or corporate bodies taking it upon themselves to organize the burial of victims of the terrorist act will receive compensation on the basis of the actual cost out of funds specified by existing legislation for the payment of ceremonial grants.

5. The Russian Federation Ministry for the Social Protection of the Population and Russian Federation Ministry of Health and the Medical Industry, in conjunction with the Republic of Dagestan government, are to determine the procedure and ensure the implementation of measures specified by the present decree.

6. Federal organs of executive authority, the Russian Federation Social Security Fund, compulsory medical insurance funds, and organs of executive authority in the Russian Federation's components are to render, within the confines of their jurisdiction, the maximum possible assistance to the victims of the terrorist act.

The Russian Federation Social Security Fund is recommended to give priority sanatorium and resort passes to the victims of the terrorist act.

Russian Federation Government chairman V. Chernomyrdin.

Spokesman Expects Ruin of Black Sea Fleet

LD3101152296 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1401 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sevastopol, January 30 (INTERFAX) — A spokesman for the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet, who preferred to remain anonymous, told INTERFAX the local staff has reasons to expect that the Black Sea Fleet will be ruined totally in the near future. According to him, the Ukrainian Navy has unilaterally appropriated six Black Sea Fleet ships and 96 support vessels since early 1993.

The fleet itself has lost 786 units and bases, over 8,000 railway carloads of arms and materials, and 4,400 units of automobiles and armored vehicles as a result of measures described by Russian Naval Headquarters as reforming the Black Sea Fleet, the source said.

Moreover, 73 units and bases deployed in the fleet's zone, with personnel numbering 13,000 men, 3,000 officers among them, were placed under Ukraine's jurisdiction.

In the period in question, the fleet's air force was cut considerably: a regiment of missile-carrying aircraft based in the town of Veseloye, an anti-submarine regiment based in the town of Mirny, and a reconnaissance squadron have been dissolved. Assault Regiment No. 43 was turned into an assault squadron based in Gvardeisky. As a result of all this the fleet "has been virtually deprived of its system for monitoring the situation in the air, on the surface and under water," the spokesman pointed out.

According to him, the command of the Black Sea Fleet has received directives from Russia's Main Naval Headquarters, instructing it to transfer its auxiliary ships to the Caspian Flotilla and to the Northern and Baltic Fleets. For instance, landing hovercraft, artillery-carrying boats, tugs, etc. were ordered to be transferred to the Caspian Flotilla.

The Yelnya, the only tanker supplying the fleet's garrisons with fuel and lubricants, will be transferred to the Baltic Fleet.

According to the spokesman, the cabled directives order the transfer of ships to the Caspian Flotilla and to the Baltic and Northern Fleets before May 15.

CIS: Foreign Ministers Pledge To Help Settle Tajik Conflict

LD3101141896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1306 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Valiyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — A settlement of the conflict in Tajikistan can only be reached by political means, by means of a dialogue between the parties based on compromise and mutual concessions. This is stressed in a joint statement released here today by the foreign ministers of five CIS countries — Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The foreign ministers stressed they were prepared to do everything possible to enable the inter-Tajik negotiations process under the aegis of the United Nations to continue and to bring about national reconciliation and accord in the country.

In the statement, hope is expressed that the second stage of the current round of inter-Tajik talks on settling the conflict will be effectively used by the parties "for intensive work to seek a real formula for reconciliation." The ministers consider the strict implementation of the clauses in the Tehran agreement on a temporary cessation of fire and other hostile action from 17 September 1994 a necessary prerequisite for this. They pointed to the importance of the decision adopted by the council of CIS state heads in Moscow on extending the Commonwealth peacekeeping forces' stay on Tajik territory until 30 June 1996 and stressed that the main condition behind the extension was "effective action by the parties to the conflict aimed at a full settlement of the situation." They expressed hope that the necessary measures to achieve peace and stability would be taken by the Tajik Government within the set time limits and called for the opposition to recognize the official authorities and renounce military action and acts of terrorism.

The ministers expressed concern with regard to the fact that the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains tense. They also said that the Russian border troops and subunits of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are playing an important role in ensuring that the border is properly protected and secure. They also spoke of the United Nations' positive assistance in the issue of a Tajik settlement and welcomed the UN Security Council's decision of 14 December 1995 on extending the mandate of the UN observer mission in Tajikistan.

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Feb
LD0102070696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0642 GMT 1 Feb 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the teachers' strike.

The newspaper frontpaged an article about the teachers' strike, which has been going on for the third day. "Teachers' strikes have become a habitual occurrence, and this is terrible. The State's overall debt to the secondary education system has already amounted to 1,200,000 million roubles", the article said.

The newspaper also carries an interview with Sergey Samoylov, Deputy Head of the Directorate for Territorial Affairs of the Presidential Administration, who describes the state of affairs in the regions.

There is also an interview with Sergey Blagovolin, director of the Russian Public Television channel ORT and one of the organisers of Russia's Democratic Choice party, who spoke about the situation on the political Olympus.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on aspirations to build a law-governed state.

The newspaper carries an interview with Academician Oleg Kutafin, a Merited Scientist and rector of the Moscow State Legal Academy. "Our society now strives to build a law-governed state but it is a long way to go before this ultimate goal is attained," Kutafin said. He spoke about hindrances in the process, problems which the legislative and executive branches of power are faced with, and the role which legal culture plays in societal life.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on delays in the payment of wages and pensions.

The newspaper frontpages an article pointing out that "the hyperinflation spectre, which roamed the country for years, has disappeared from the horizon. This is undoubtedly to the credit of the present government. But another trouble has emerged — delays in the payment of wages and pensions at the local level. Local administrators, instead of taking practical measures to change the situation for the better, quite often do not mind passing the buck to Moscow. Therefore, quite natural is a tough reaction from Boris Yeltsin who firmly demanded that order be restored in the payment

of wages and pensions. The President stated that from now on he brings a solution to the problem under his personal control".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the regaining of monopoly on the production of alcoholic drinks by the State.

The newspaper emphasises the importance of the adopted Federal Law "On State regulation of the production and sale of ethyl alcohol and alcoholic drinks".

Commenting on the event, Deputy Minister of Economics Yakov Urinson examines two sets of documents: the licensing and declaration of the production and sale of all alcoholic drinks and the regulation of revenue to the budget from the sales.

IZVESTIYA on the Chechnya conflict.

Under the headline "To stop the war in Chechnya would be top boldness which is now needed", the newspaper carries a letter by Rasul Gamzatov in support of the initiative of Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov and his appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin urging him to bring about an end to the war in Chechnya without delay. Yegor Gaydar has also joined the initiative. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has suggested his own plan to end the military conflict.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on the Russian Antarctic research funding situation.

An article to this effect points out that it is for several months now that the Ministry of Finance has not been assigning funds for a new, the 41st, Antarctic expedition. As a result of that, the start of the expedition is now more than two months late.

TRUD on developments in Chechnya.

The newspaper frontpages an article wondering when the war in Chechnya will end and when Russian officers and boy soldiers cease to run the risk of being killed there.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on the same subject.

The newspaper runs an article headlined "The small-scale 'Caucasian war' and Big Politics" about the developments in Chechnya.

"One gathers the impression that the blood spilled in Chechnya has stunned people for some time. This, incidentally, applies only to Russian politicians and by no means to Chechen militants," the newspaper writes.

Chernomyrdin: Russia-U.S. Sets Course for Normal Trade Ties

LD0102113496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1111 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Aleksey Agureyev, Aleksey Berezhkov, Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW YORK, February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — The main objective of the Russian-American Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Technological Cooperation is to create condition for a steady and normal work of U.S. companies on the Russian market and of Russian businessmen in the U.S., Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said here on Wednesday, addressing representatives of the U.S. business community.

"I shall tell you frankly that these days I became aware of some concern, primarily in the U.S. business community, over the way the situation in Russia will develop in the future, and over a possible deviation from the policy, which is now being pursued by the Russian President. I can tell you frankly that the situation in Russia is far from simple, but there will be no deviations from the policy of the implementation of the economic reform. The Russian Constitution and the President are the guarantors of it," Chernomyrdin said.

He reminded the U.S. businessmen that the Russian reform had been going on for only five years. "However, the fundamentals of the market-based economy have been created in the country," he continued. "Privatization has been put into effect. The non-state sector of the national economy accounted in 1995 for 70 per cent of the gross domestic product. The structure of Russia's economy resembles more and more the proportions existing in the economies of countries with well developed market relations. The share of services in the gross national product grew from 32 per cent in 1990 to 53 per cent in 1995."

According to Chernomyrdin, "we are far from overestimating what we have accomplished." At the same time, the results of the past year give grounds for cautious optimism. "Positive factors are being accumulated in the economy. We managed to dramatically reduce the inflation level last year from 18 per cent in January to 3.2 per cent in December, and the autumn of 1995 was the first one, when we did not experience the upsurge of inflation. The situation in the industrial sector is being stabilised. Positive foreign trade balance amounted to 20 billion dollars in 1995."

Chernomyrdin said that the economic difficulties had not yet been overcome, but stressed: "I wish to repeat

once again that the processes of economic transformations in Russia are becoming irreversible."

"An effective solution of the problem of the long-term and comprehensive restructuring of the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union is undoubtedly the priority task for Russia. We expect a constructive dialogue within the framework of the Paris and London Clubs. A quest for ways of resolving the problem of the commercial debt of Soviet foreign trade organizations is going on," he continued, commenting on the role of external factors in long-term plans of the Russian economic development.

According to the Russian prime minister, investments are the key factor of economic development. "We very much hope that there will be a radical change for the better in this sphere in 1996, and the reduction of the volume of investments will be stopped. We expect a slight growth of investments, by about four per cent. The Russian government believes that its task is to form steadily and consistently a more stable and mild investment climate.

"Every step along the path of the economic reform increases our cooperation potential. I am sure, and I would like to convince you that the more time is spent on overcoming all sorts of misgivings and fears, the smaller will be profits, made on the Russian market," Chernomyrdin said.

Russia Said To Join NY Stock Exchange This Century

LD0102113396 Moscow Russian Public Television
First Channel Network in Russian
0900 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The prime minister, during a short interview with ITAR-TASS while flying out to Moscow, said he does not accept the idea of his candidacy being put forward for the June presidential elections. [passage omitted: further quote from ITAR-TASS on the subject]

This is the New York Stock Exchange. [video shows Wall Street dealers at work] This is the building which houses people who were known in our country for a long time as nothing other than wheeler-dealers or money-grabbers from Wall Street. Now they are known as businessmen. Money, tens and hundreds of millions of dollars, exchange hands here with incredible speed. Even the appearance of a lofty guest who was awaited here with curiosity did not interrupt the work.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, as we were told, was interested in the volume of trading. The New York Stock Exchange has seen a great deal. In 1929, after the crash which left many bankrupt in America, the government introduced

strict rules of trading, effectively putting an end to the era of wild capitalism. Now the companies working here are obliged to publish their income and expenditures and to observe the rights of shareholders. [passage omitted: more on U.S. financial regulations]

By the supreme order of his majesty, the emperor of Russia, Nicholas II, this vase [video shows vase] was given to the New York Stock Exchange in 1904. At that time, Russian stocks were valued here.

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] Yes, of course. Russia was also functioning well at that time. It had just entered the U.S. market and started to work with the New York Stock Exchange. At present, naturally, we will not take as long to make our appearance here. We will come here, definitely. No doubt about that. We will come here this very century. This was important at the beginning of this century, but we are doing it at the end of it. Russia will be here. [end recording] [passage omitted, summarizing Chernomyrdin recorded remarks]

Chernomyrdin Completes U.S. Visit, Departs

LD0102064796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0514 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW YORK February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has completed his visit to the United States and left here for home. During his one-day stay in New York, where the Russian Premier arrived after attending the 6th session of the Russo-American Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Technological Cooperation, he met with representative of U.S. business elite and familiarised himself with the operation of the New York Stock Exchange.

In a change of his working programme, Chernomyrdin honoured the memory of Russian poet Yosif Brodskiy, Nobel Prize Winner, who had died here at the age of 55.

Russia: U.S. Envoy Seen Breaching 'Diplomatic Norms'

MM0102102996 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 1 Feb 96 p 7

[Article by Yevgeniy Popov: "New-Style 'Pincer.' U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering Advocates Dismantling of Russia's Nuclear Shield"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the umpteenth time Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Russia, has dared to breach the elementary norms of diplomatic protocol. First, while in Sakhalin he thought it possible to advise us to give up the Kuril islands to Japan, then he publicly stated his "support for the reform course" repudiated

by Russia's voters, and a few days ago he decided to openly campaign for the State Duma's speediest ratification of the START II Treaty (as it is known in the U.S. press). The U.S. Embassy circulated a USIA — government information agency — news bulletin providing a detailed report on Pickering's meeting 26 January at the editorial office of the Russian Defense Ministry daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA with the chief editor and staff "in connection with the ratification of START II."

Our newspaper has repeatedly published commentaries by Russia's most authoritative experts on this treaty, whose ratification, according to them, would mean victory for the U.S. strategy of "escalating superiority." Thus, in its 8 April 1995 issue SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA devoted a whole page to an article headlined "Nuclear 'Pincer'" by leading specialists from the All-Russia Experimental Physics Research Institute's Federal Nuclear Center. The authors directly raised the question: "What does the United States want? A reduction in the level of **mutual** danger (that is, stabilization), or just the maximum weakening of our Fatherland's defense potential?" The experts cited weighty arguments to corroborate the second version. Therefore they concluded: "This **conceptually** inequitable treaty must either be denounced or promptly updated (that is, revised)."

The report published in the USIA bulletin on Pickering's meeting at KRASNAYA ZVEZDA indicates that the U.S. ambassador realizes that the START II treaty, ratified a few days ago by the U.S. Senate (89 votes for and four against), has little chance of being approved by the State Duma. The ambassador therefore resorts to specious arguments: "The Americans are right to say that this treaty is in Russia's interests. And the Russians are right to say that this treaty is in America's interests." His audience was so polite to its guest that it ingratiated itself with some questions. This one, for instance: "The B-2 bomber stealth technology and the plans to develop other strategic weapons systems are necessary only in order to infiltrate multitiered defense systems, which exist only in Russia and China. Any political regime that exists in Russia, be it communist or nationalist, will spend considerable amounts of money to develop adequate defense systems. Consequently, the lion's share of the defense budget will be spent on developing unnecessary systems. What can you say to that?" Needless to say, the U.S. ambassador did have an answer to a "very good question." Of course he did not say outright: Why does present-day Russia, which has fallen on hard times, need a nuclear shield left over from the time when the United States was joined by another superpower — the Soviet Union?! But Pickering did,

as it were, question this shield: "Both our governments are talking, for instance, about extremely limited ABM defense systems for the theater of military operations, which will have limited potential to rebuff attack...."

But the ambassador relied most on the fact that "your military, who helped during the talks on this treaty," would play "a leading role in attempting to persuade the Duma of its importance." He even suggested the date by which this "leading role" should be successfully exercised: by April, when a G-7 conference on issues of "strengthening nuclear security" is scheduled to be held in Moscow. In this connection Pickering went some way toward buttering up the Russian president, who is preparing to run for a second term and seems to be intending to use the Moscow summit for what are exclusively election propaganda purposes: According to the U.S. ambassador, the G-7 has become the "eight" leaders of the "most economically developed democratic countries." If it is decided by then that Russia will be left without a nuclear shield to guarantee its independence, why not indulge "friend Boris'" ambitions with this trifle?!

During his meeting with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA journalists the U.S. ambassador also heard questions that were not so "good." Such as: "Mr. Ambassador, in your brief statement you said that your country has no intention of controlling the whole world. But some things indicate the opposite. As you know, the United States has a national security strategy whereby exceptionally reliable defense forces will be maintained, while at the same time America exerts influence on the most important areas of the world. Areas with the greatest wealth of natural resources and a cheap work force have been declared areas of U.S. vital interest. In particular, over the last two years the United States has boosted the number of such areas from three to 10: Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and the Pacific region, the Western Hemisphere, the Near East, Southwest and South Asia, and even Africa. Question: Do you not think that this policy could cause another wave of international tension?"

It turned out that the ambassador did not have an intelligible answer to "this very important question, which should be put directly." His digression into the history of the last few years — starting with the 1990 Gulf War and ending with the landing of the U.S. expeditionary corps in Bosnia — bolstered rather than dispelled the disquiet at the new U.S. role as world gendarme. Incidentally, Pickering made no secret of the fact that one of the main reasons for the Gulf War was "the extremely serious threat to one of the world's main energy sources." But the strategists of the new world order no longer hide the fact today that it is in precisely this light that they see events in Russia

and the other former republics of the Soviet Union. The editorial published 2 January 1996 in THE NEW YORK TIMES entitled "The New Big Game in Asia" is extremely noteworthy in this respect. It points out that Western experts believe that the gigantic untapped oil and natural gas fields in Caspian littoral countries may make that region the Persian Gulf of the next century. The article openly says how the leaders of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan are being undermined by bribery and intimidation. The major oil monopolies are already spreading their tentacles out toward the region. The intended level of investment is \$40 billion. Exxon and Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation are studying the possibility of investing \$12 billion in building a 4,900-mile oil pipeline across Turkmenistan to the Pacific. Chevron, the fifth largest oil giant, has already invested \$700 million in opening up the gigantic Tengiz field in Kazakhstan. The Soviet Union has been divided up in order for its huge natural resources to be explored more conveniently — primarily by Western fuel and energy and major capitalist monopolies. They are quite prepared to engage in a similar procedure with regard to the excessively vast and "indigestible" Russia. That is why their lobbyists are in such a hurry to finish dismantling the nuclear shield — the last guarantee of our country's independence — before the presidential election, which could prove crucial to our fatherland's salvation and revival.

In the article "Nuclear 'Pincer,'" directed at Russian legislators and society, the authors cited evidence from a book by Michio Kaku and Daniel Axelrod published in the United States entitled "To Win a Nuclear War. The Pentagon's Secret Strategy." The first operation against us, elaborated back in June 1946, was Operation "Pincer," which envisaged the nuclear bombing of 20 USSR cities using 50 nuclear bombs. Then other, wider-ranging operations were also elaborated with the ingenious names "Broiler" (a Hot Day), "Boiling Heat [Ispepelyayushchiy zhar]," "Shock" [Vstryaska], "Instantaneous Strike" [Momentalnyy udar].... The last of the operations mentioned in the book was one suggested in 1982, which envisaged nuclear strikes on several thousand targets in the USSR. Thank God that by then nuclear arms parity had already been secured as a military-political means of ensuring global stability in the world! Russia's legislators must carefully consider all the consequences of ratifying the START II Treaty, which is what U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering is advocating in breach of diplomatic norms of conduct in his host country!....

U.S. State Department Urges Russian Duma To Ratify START II

LD0102074796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0230 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kikilo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 1 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — On Wednesday the U.S. State Department urged the Russian State Duma to ratify the START-2 treaty without any changes, conditions or proviso. Its official spokesman Nicolas Burns addressed an appeal to the Russian legislators at a news conference, urging them "to take a step similar to the one which the U.S. Senate took on Friday evening and ratify the treaty in the same form as when it was signed in January 1993 by Presidents Yeltsin and Bush."

The State Department's spokesman explained this by saying that the U.S.-Russian treaty would be "useful for both countries." "It will reduce the amount of nuclear weapons to the historically low levels. It will upgrade the nuclear balance and ensure the safety of both countries," Burns said, "Therefore we call on the Duma to ratify the treaty as it is without any conditions."

START II Seen Facing Tough Passage Through Russian Duma

MM3101160796 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Ratification of START II Treaty Is Russian Politicians' Strategic Weapon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The discussion of the START II treaty which has begun at the State Duma Committee for Geopolitical Issues is not the number one event in Russia's political life. But it could exert its all-pervasive influence on it for a long time to come, especially in the run-up to and during the presidential elections.

The treaty, signed by President Bush and President Yeltsin in the Kremlin in January 1993, was ratified by the U.S. Senate at the end of last week. It envisages that by the year 2003 the number of U.S. and Russian nuclear warheads will be reduced to 3,500 and 3,000 respectively, with ICBM's [intercontinental ballistic missiles] reduced to 1,000 and 736, submarine-launched missiles to 1,750 and 1,648, and nuclear-tipped cruise missiles carried by heavy bombers reduced to 750 and 616 respectively. In other words, by almost two-thirds of current levels. And even though President Yeltsin considers the START II treaty extremely necessary for Russia because it enhances the country's security, the leaders of many Duma factions and committees are unlikely to agree with him on that score.

"We must be ready for the ratification of the treaty to run into major difficulties in the State Duma," Duma Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyuhkin told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. After noting the "varying opinions of the START II treaty in official circles and among the public," the Communists' spokesman stressed that "many Russian experts and military people are against the treaty's ratification or are insisting that it be substantially altered."

The committee chairman claims that "there have been major changes in the world and in Russia" since the conclusion of this agreement. "NATO is moving ever closer to Russia's borders, and Poland, the Czech Republic, the Baltic republics, and Moldova have already declared their readiness to join the bloc. Georgia's position is ambiguous," the parliamentarian stressed. "Our Armed Forces are at the reorganization stage, which is why strategic nuclear arms are the ultimate deterrent."

Aleksey Mitrofanov, chairman of the Committee for Geopolitical Issues and a representative of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia faction, stated in conversation with your IZVESTIYA correspondent that the START II Treaty does not accord with the Russian Federation's national interests. This is our party's official position of principle, Mitrofanov said. "Perhaps the military and the diplomats will put forward various arguments, perhaps the Americans will offer some assurances which will change our minds," he stated, "but our position as of today is immutable."

At the same time Mitrofanov said that his committee will examine the possibility of the treaty's ratification and is recommending that it be submitted to a general discussion in the Duma, as the president has asked, before 22 March, although first it will be necessary to hear the experts' opinion because most deputies have extremely muddled ideas about the content of this document.

As the editorial office has learned, at the first session of the Committee for Geopolitical Issues representatives of the various factions were given a seven-page report containing different assessments of the treaty. Experts are due to comment on its content before Thursday [1 February]. Meanwhile, representatives of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, the Strategic Missile Forces, and the Navy declared unanimously at the hearings that the treaty can be ratified if the president, the government, and parliament undertake a commitment to fulfill a number of preconditions. To be specific, that they define the national security concept and elaborate in accordance with it a program for the development of arms and combat hardware with which to equip the

Russian Army and Navy, as well as the precise, phased financing of that program.

The START II treaty cannot be ratified, a high-ranking Russian Defense Ministry spokesman told me, if the fulfillment of the START I treaty is only 40 percent funded today.

Many experts believe that the ratification of the START II treaty will give rise to a major political game linked not so much with a concern to increase our country's security but mainly with the tactics and strategy of the election campaign. None of the current contenders for the presidency, except surely Yeltsin himself, wants to accept responsibility for the fate of this treaty.

Thus with the most positive development of events the START II treaty could pass its first reading before June this year or it could be sent to the Duma committees for further analysis and examination and perhaps have the kind of conditions attached to it which would contradict its very essence.

Russia: Units of Airborne Brigade Begin Tasks in Balkans

LD0102104096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0945 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — Units of the Russian airborne brigade on Thursday began to accomplish peacekeeping tasks in the Balkans. In strict conformity with the plan of the Russian General Staff, by February 1 the Brigade has been fully deployed in the area of Bijelina and will patrol in Posavinsky corridor.

The troops were transported to the area by military transportation planes and by rail. The transportation operation was supervised by Major-General Nikolay Staskov, Deputy Commander of Russia's Airborne Forces in charge of peacekeeping operations, a spokesman at the Press Centre of Airborne Forces has told ITAR-TASS. This was one of the largest-scale operations to dispatch a military force in the westerly direction over the entire post-war period, the spokesman pointed out.

The final phase of the transportation operation was conducted in conjunction with the U.S. 1st Armour Division, the 1st Army Corps of the Serbian Republic, and the 2nd Corps of the Bosnian army. The transportation, which began on January 17, was completed within two weeks and went off without incidents with a high degree of organisation.

A Russian brigade participates in the peacekeeping operation in the Balkans in accordance with the Constitution of Russia. The Head of State applied to the Federation Council and got consent for the dispatch of a brigade at an aggregate strength of 1,600 to the Balkans. The Brigade peacekeeping activities are to be financed resultant of purpose-oriented funds, and not from the Defence Ministry budget. Annual expenditure will run at 200,000 million roubles.

Russia: General Staff Aide on Bosnia Peace Role

MM3101142996 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 30 Jan 96 p 3

["View from the General Staff" by Colonel General Viktor Barynkin, chief of Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff Main Operations Directorate: "Efforts in 'Joint Endeavor'" — first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some time ago KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reported on the Russian peacekeepers' tasks in Bosnia and on the conditions under which they have to operate. And yet, mindful of the unprecedented nature and significance of that action for the fate of peace in Europe, we have decided to return to this topic. To talk in greater detail about the nature and niceties of Russia's peacekeeping mission, about the decisions that preceded it....

Today we offer a view of the situation from the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff.

As is known, the breakup of Yugoslavia into several independent states and the subsequent inter-nation and interethnic disputes resulted in a bloody drama in the Balkans. Over 200,000 people have died in the space of four years, over 500,000 have been injured, and over 2.5 million have been made homeless.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Russia has done a great deal for a just settlement of the crisis. From the spring of 1992 two Russian airborne battalions, better known to the public as "Rusbat-1" and "Rusbat-2," with a total strength of 1,500 men, have been maintaining the peace in East Slavonia and the Sarajevo region as part of the UN force. At the present time the bulk of "Rusbat-2" is being withdrawn from Sarajevo to Russia in connection with the expiration of the UN mandate. The remainder is being transferred to the Russian military contingent for the implementation of the peace agreements in the former Yugoslavia.

Thanks to the persistent efforts of the world community, primarily Russia, the United States, Britain, France,

Germany, and the leadership of the European Community, the belligerents were sat around the negotiating table. As a result, the Balkan leaders signed the Agreement on a Peace Settlement in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at Dayton Air Force Base (Ohio, United States) 10 November 1995. The very next day the UN Security Council, guided by the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter and by its own Resolution 1031, gave the "green light" to a new peacekeeping operation by a multinational force with a total strength of 60,000 for a period of 12 months.

Overall leadership of the operation is exercised by General George Joulwan, supreme allied commander in Europe, who by decision of the UN Security Council has simultaneously been appointed supreme commander in chief of the forces implementing the peace agreements [IFOR] in the former Yugoslavia.

In addition to the NATO countries, nonbloc states have also agreed to participate in the operation: Austria, Sweden, Finland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Pakistan, Egypt, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and the Baltic states.

As a result of a series of negotiations between the U.S. defense secretary and the Russian defense minister, an agreement in principle was reached that Russia would also participate in the operation by the multinational force in the Balkans.

Thus, we are talking of the biggest operation in the European theater since World War II, in the course of which not only will questions directly linked with a Bosnian settlement be resolved but elements of the future system of European security will actually be rehearsed.

In accordance with the Federal Law "On the Procedure for the Russian Federation To Provide Military and Civilian Personnel To Participate in Activity To Maintain or Restore International Peace and Security," the Russian Federation president submitted for the Federation Council's consideration a draft decree on sending a military contingent to join the multinational force in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 5 January this year the Federal Assembly Federation Council gave its consent to the participation in the operation of a military contingent of the Russian Federation Armed Forces with as many as 1,600 men.

As regards its composition, a separate airborne brigade has been formed from the Red Banner Svir and Chernigov Guards' Airborne Divisions on the basis of a General Staff decision and is currently being transferred to the region of the task's fulfillment. It has in its arsenal over 100 airborne fighting vehicles,

armored personnel carriers, and self-propelled guns, air defense weapons, and small arms.

Unlike the other IFOR military contingents from non-NATO countries, the Russian brigade of the peacekeeping force has a special status. In accordance with the operations plan, the brigade is a constituent part of IFOR for the period of the operation, independently tackles the tasks set it, and is not a part of the NATO formations. Gen. G. Joulwan exercises command of the brigade through his deputy in charge of the Russian troops — Colonel General Leontiy Shevtsov. All orders issued to the Russian brigade are signed by both of them.

In the implementation of the operation the Russian peacekeepers are interacting with units of NATO's "Eagle" task force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is commanded by Major General William Nash, commander of the U.S. 1st Armored Division. Our brigade's neighbor on its left is the 1st Brigade of the U.S. 1st Armored Division, and on its right the 2d Brigade of the same division.

Communications at all levels of command (IFOR Supreme High Command — Rapid Reaction Force — 1st Armored Division) are provided by officers of the task forces, and at the Russian brigade headquarters by a group of U.S. officers.

Our guys' mission consists in separating the warring sides, maintaining law and order, and giving the population humanitarian assistance.

On reaching the area of the task's fulfillment by 1 February, the brigade has to carry out a number of measures, including measures relating to engineering support. This means clearing mines from the main roads and occupied areas, carrying out fortification work, rebuilding destroyed road sections, equipping field water supply points....

The most immediate task is to monitor the disengagement of the warring sides along the cease-fire line in cooperation with the U.S. 1st Armored Division and to designate routes and ensure freedom of movement across the border between the new federative formations, above all along the road in the Brcko-Tuzla sector. Then subsequently, to stabilize the situation and carry out the provision on the cessation of fire within the sector of responsibility, and to monitor the handover of territory and the zone of the sides' disengagement. This in turn will help implement the framework peace agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By way of compensation for the special conditions of carrying out the task, personnel are paid \$850-1,000 per month and retain the pay and allowances which

they were receiving at their last place of service with percentage increments.

Russia's participation in Operation Joint Endeavor will enable us to verify in practice the mutual readiness and capability of the countries involved in the operation and of NATO and Russia for real cooperation and partnership in the name of peace and security in Europe.

Primakov: Russian, Ukrainian Talks 'Not Without Success'

LD0102084096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0830 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — "At the Ukrainian-Russian talks, a normal dialogue is being conducted by the two independent, sovereign states which try, and not without success, to settle the existing problems," Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov has told ITAR-TASS in an estimate of the first day of talks in Kiev. He arrived in Ukraine on Wednesday after visiting Belarus.

The principal aim of the Russian Minister's visit is to prepare President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine. The visit is scheduled for the second half of March.

The talks were "very tough", a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry source has told ITAR-TASS. After the talks, Primakov and his Ukrainian counterpart Hennadiy Udovenko sought to evade journalists' questions on the subject. Primakov only stated firmly that "the Black Sea Fleet problem should be settled before Boris Yeltsin visits Ukraine".

There is more unanimity on NATO's eastward enlargement issue. "Our and Russia's positions coincide. Just like Russia, we believe that the national interests of our states should be taken into account in connection with this issue," Udovenko stated.

Primakov reaffirmed that Russia is categorically against NATO expansion. He emphasised that "this does not mean that we think that we have the right to veto or the right to forbid this or that country to join the military bloc." "But Russia has its own idea of the process and compares it with its own interests," the Russian Minister pointed out.

On Thursday, Yevgeniy Primakov is to continue talks with Hennadiy Udovenko. He is also to meet with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz and Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk.

Russian Foreign Minister: BSF Division Remains 'Major Problem'

LD0102083696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0812 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, February 2 (ITAR-TASS) — Division of the Black Sea fleet remains the major problem in the relations with Ukraine, according to visiting Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov. He arrived in Kiev on Wednesday for a two-day official visit.

To promote the solution of the problem, Primakov said the Russian leadership does not consider the major base of the fleet in Sevastopol in Crimea as Russian territory as it was claimed by the former parliament.

"Sevastopol's status is not included in the agenda of the Ukrainian-Russian talks, and the decision of the previous Duma about its re-subordination to the Russian Federation should not be viewed as the opinion of the Russian leadership," Primakov told the briefing on Wednesday.

However, Primakov expressed discontent with Ukrainian moves to keep Russia away from the Council of Europe.

"Why did a part of the Ukrainian delegation in Strasbourg vote against Russia's admission to the Council of Europe", he asked, but added immediately: "I don't think this is the point of view of the whole Ukrainian parliament and the Ukrainian people".

Russia: Admiral Baltin Relieved of Black Sea Fleet Command

LD0102080596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0730 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — Eduard Baltin has been relieved of his post of commander of the Black Sea fleet in accordance with the Russian president's decree of 27 January 1996. The press center of the Black Sea fleet informed ITAR-TASS of this today.

The press center noted that Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev sent a telegram on this to Sevastopol on Wednesday. It, in particular, said that Admiral Eduard Baltin within the next ten days should pass on his duties to Vice-Admiral Gennadiy Suchkov, first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet, who will be acting fleet commander.

Russia: Antarctic Station Shut Down Due to Lack of Funding*LD3101161196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1321 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — The state flag first hoisted over Russia's Antarctic research station Vostok in 1957 has been lowered. Because of cash shortages, the station has been mothballed, ITAR-TASS was told by Anatoliy Yakovlev, press secretary of the Russian Hydrometeorological Department, today.

"Because of the absence of funding, we had to shut down the station, which is situated in the depths of the eastern Antarctic, in the area of the southern geomagnetic pole," Yakovlev said. According to his data, the 12 Russian polar researchers have been evacuated to the American station McMurdo.

As noted by Yakovlev, "now the specialists have lost the opportunity to stage unique experiments".

Recently at the Vostok station, the Russian scientists along with their French and U.S. colleagues carried out observations of the ozone layer and in-depth drilling of the glacier, which is here the thickest on Earth. [passage omitted: further experiments described]

At present, the mothballing works have been completed at the Vostok station: the system of vital facilities has been turned off, the building reinforced, the premises hermetically sealed, and part of the equipment removed. The 3-km deep well has been filled with an environmentally clean mixture of highly purified kerosene and freon. No one can say when the scientists will be able to work here again.

Russia: Further on Antarctica Station Pull-Out*MM0102094096 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Jan 96 p 1*

[Report by Vasilii Makashin: "Russian Flag Lowered. Polar Scientific Station Closed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Twelve scientists and specialists from the Vostok scientific station situated 1,500 km from the South Pole have left the mothballed station. Anatoliy Yakovlev, press secretary with the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring, has announced that the specialists have been evacuated to the American McMurdo polar station, from where they will be returned to Russia.

The closure of Vostok is due to financial problems and the rapid deterioration of the pool of trucks used to deliver fuel. There are still another 119 Russian specialists at polar stations in the Antarctic waiting to return

home. But the scientific research vessel Akademik Fedorov cannot leave St. Petersburg to bring in replacements for the polar scientists. The Finance Ministry has still not allocated the money needed to make the trip. As a result of the mothballing of Vostok a unique international experiment involving Russia, France, and the United States — during which it had been planned to obtain samples from an already drilled 3-km borehole containing information on the gas composition of the atmosphere in the distant past — has been halted.

Yeltsin's Security Aide Baturin Arrives in Tajikistan*LD0102081496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0720 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 1 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — National Security Aide to the President of Russia Yuriy Baturin arrived in Dushanbe this morning, competent sources in the [Tajik] Republic's leadership told the ITAR-TASS correspondent. According to the same sources, Baturin's arrival is linked to the latest events in Tajikistan which are causing the Russian leadership "serious concern."

A group of military experts and journalists arrived along with Yuriy Baturin in Dushanbe. It is expected that the aide to the Russian head of state will hold meetings with Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and the republic's military leadership.

Russia: Primakov Voices Concern Over Tajikistan*LD3101174796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1704 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — "The Russian Foreign Ministry expresses profound concern over the situation in Tajikistan which could put the country on the verge of a resumption of civil war." This is stated in a Russian Foreign Ministry statement received by ITAR-TASS today.

The document points out that the situation has become much more complicated in Tajikistan where in the past few days anti-government moves have taken place and there has been a resumption of armed actions by the Islamic opposition. "Russia has come out in favor and continues to come out in favor of stability and peace in Tajikistan, for achieving national accord and the continuation of democratic transformations," the statement notes. "Proceeding on the basis of these

interests, our country is taking part in the collective peacekeeping forces and uses its border troops to protect the Tajik-Afghan border."

"The way to achieve peace is to continue the inter-Tajik dialogue," the Russian Foreign Ministry statement stresses. "Russia is prepared to continue to promote its further progress." The Russian side believes that it is particularly important in present circumstances to have mutual observation of the cease-fire accords.

"All political forces in Tajikistan should try to resolve the existing disagreements on the basis of constitutional legality and by political means," the statement says. "Only in this way is it possible to restore stability in the country and give it the chance to make progress along the path of reforms and national accord."

Yeltsin Proposes Chubays as European Union Representative

LD3101134096 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our radio station has learned that a submission from Boris Yeltsin that Anatoliy Chubays be appointed Russia's plenipotentiary representative at the European Union in Brussels has reached the State Duma International Affairs Committee.

Vladimir Lukin, who heads the committee, has said that it is news to them that Chubays is a candidate, but this would be considered at an upcoming session. For the time being it is not known whether Chubays himself has agreed to this appointment. However, according to Lukin, such inquiries are not usually made without the consent of the interested person.

Yeltsin Welcomes End to French Nuclear Tests

LD3101171696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1654 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressed satisfaction with France's decision to finally stop nuclear testing. Yeltsin's press secretary Sergei Medvedev said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Russian President Boris Yeltsin welcomed the decision by the French leadership to finally stop nuclear testing," the statement said.

"According to Boris Yeltsin, this move by French President Jacques Chirac corresponds with the spirit of the Rambouillet talks which expressed the mutual aspiration of the Russian and French leaders to provide assistance in the working out and conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty in 1996," the statement said.

"Russia has been consistently advocating a full and comprehensive ban on nuclear testing, considering this measure to be a mature step in the field of nuclear non-proliferation," the document said.

"Our country has been strictly observing a moratorium on nuclear testing for more than four years. It is largely due to our efforts that it was possible to start practical talks in 1994 on drafting a corresponding treaty," the statement said.

"Boris Yeltsin hopes that Jacques Chirac's decision will provide better conditions for many-sided cooperation between Russia and France, along with other concerned countries, in solving issues related to a full and comprehensive ban on nuclear testing," the statement said.

Russia: DPRK Special Services Seen 'Stepping Up' Activity

LD3101181396 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Jan 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Law enforcement bodies in the Far East have tricky problems on their hands. There is a whiff of possible international scandal in the air. A dispatch from Vladivostok.

[Correspondent, over video of submarines, men working] A group of DPRK citizens has been arrested near a nuclear submarine base in Maritime Territory. Seventeen men were doing something in a military compound at a time when they should have been cultivating seafood. The fact that they were found 15 km from their enterprise is a flagrant violation of the regulations governing foreign workers in Russia.

[Viktor Plotnikov, deputy head of passport and visa service of Internal Affairs Department of Maritime Territory] Five DPRK citizens have been expelled, and the others involved, as well as the employers on the Russian Federation side, have been punished under administrative procedures.

[Correspondent] According to unofficial information, staff of the Federal Security Service are now dealing with this case. It should be pointed out that subjects of the DPRK stand out among other foreign workers by their astonishing degree of discipline, and nobody in the know could imagine that any of them would do anything — and certainly anything illegal — without approval from their senior leadership. It has been pointed out in this connection, that quite recently a North Korean worker, officially registered as a construction worker, tried to buy an automatic weapon for underwater use for several thousand dollars. Put together all the facts, and

they indicate that the DPRK special services are stepping up their activity on the territory of Russia, which explains the interest of counterintelligence staffers in the latest incident involving the detentions near the nuclear submarine base.

According to official statistics, there are currently 1,300 workers from North Korea in Maritime Territory.

Russia, Vietnam Renew Legal Basis for Cooperation

LD0102093596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0634 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Sergey Blagov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HANOI February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — With a view to creating favourable conditions for the development of bilateral cooperation, Vietnam and Russia consider it necessary to adjust a number of agreements which were concluded between Vietnam and the former Soviet Union, a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman told ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

Representatives of the two countries have already held and carry on consultations on the matter in order to bring those agreements into line with new realities in relations between Vietnam and Russia, the spokesman said.

Earlier the local press and then the Japanese news agency Kyodo Tsushin reported that the Office of the Vietnamese Government had ostensibly decided to resign 56 out of 72 agreements with the former Soviet Union and Russia. The Japanese news agency asserted in particular that the Agreement on the use of the Cam Ranh Bay facility by the Russian Navy would be annulled, which would render the base open to U.S. ships. "We have no information about the contents of such reports," the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out.

Russia: Talks End on Reducing Troop Strength Along China Border

OW0102104796 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Mandarin 1300 GMT 26 Jan 96

[From "Half an Hour With Wang Xiao"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 18th round of talks on reduction of armed personnel along the former Soviet-Chinese boundary, between a Chinese delegation and a joint delegation from Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, has ended in Beijing. Station commentator (Silikovskiy) said that the talks have lasted six years, initially between the Soviet Union and China and later between China and the border states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

According to observers, both this round of talks and the previous ones were held in a very friendly atmosphere. Each country took a responsible attitude toward arms reduction along a boundary as long as 100 km. The total length of the boundary was agreed to be 7,800 km. During this round, concrete issues in the agreement to be signed by the five countries were discussed. The positions of the two sides on most issues were close or identical. The next round of talks, to be held in Moscow, will make even greater progress.

At present, military specialists and diplomats of these countries are drafting important documents on ways to reduce military strength, to ensure that the countries concerned will not feel threatened. It is not easy to accomplish this goal, because it requires the best intentions. Of course, it is also necessary to consider changes in relations between the CIS states and China.

An agreement on mutual trust measures in border areas drafted by delegates at the talks is a typical example of smooth development of friendly relations. It can be said that the central issue of this round of talks was to establish mutual trust. Specialists need further study and discussion on specific reductions of armed forces in the border areas of the five countries. We would like to remind our listeners that the draft agreement on mutual trust measures should be signed in Shanghai during Yeltsin's visit to China. Last year, Yeltsin postponed his visit to China because of illness. However, preparations for his visit have never stopped. Observers stated that the high-level Russia-China meeting will be held in Beijing at the end of March and the beginning of April.

Russia: Recognition of 1920 Tartu Treaty Ruled Out

LD3101194196 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1804 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — Russia will not recognize the 1920 Tartu peace treaty in any form, not for half an hour, not for a second, neither separately, nor as a whole, a deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's second European department, Aleksandr Udaltsov, told INTERFAX Wednesday.

"The sooner those in Tallinn understand this, the better," he added.

Udaltsov's comments were in answer to an earlier statement by Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi who proposed Russia "as a declaration, at least for half an hour, recognize the treaty, and right after this conclude the border treaty."

According to Udaltsov, "such proposals simply do not sound serious, the more so from such serious politicians."

"Tallinn is trying to pressure Moscow into recognizing the treaty in any form," Udaltsov said. "This is why the Russian-Estonian talks on the border treaty are in a deadlock," he added.

"The Tartu treaty will never be the basis of the border treaty. This is our unambiguous position," Udaltsov underlined.

Moscow, Vilnius Hammer Out Sea Border, Shelf Agreement

*MK0102091796 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
31 Jan 96 p 2*

[Report by Dmitriy Veller: "Russia and Lithuania Discuss on Whose Territory Oil Terminal Should Be"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Negotiations continue in Vilnius between Russian and Lithuanian commissions which are to work out the texts of treaties on the state border,

the economic zone, and the continental shelf in the Baltic Sea. The Russian delegation is headed by Russian Ambassador Sholmov, and the Lithuanian delegation by Foreign Ministry Secretary Shidlauskas. The crux of the discussion is the question of Oil Terminal D-6 in Neringa, which is planned to be used by the "Lukoil" concern.

Lithuania has often opposed Russia's operation of the 10-million-tonne oil terminal, which is located on disputed territory. The terminal's service life is estimated at 16 years and its capacity at 800,000 tonnes of oil per year. In 1995 the terminal was used by the KANT concern, which included the Russian firms Rosneft and "Kaliningradmorneftegaz" and Germany's RWE-DEA and VEBA Oil. However, as of January 1996 "Lukoil" monopolized terminal D-6.

Experts believe that Lithuania and Russia should refrain from any actions involving the use of oil sources on the disputed territory until sea borders are established. Representatives of both countries signed a commitment [obyazatelstvo] to that effect.

Political Issues

Yeltsin's 65th Birthday Schedule Detailed

LD0102103996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1028 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — It is business as usual for Russian President Boris Yeltsin who turns 65 today. Naturally, this day differs from other workdays by the need for him to accept congratulations. Presidential Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev has told reporters of Russian news agencies.

Medvedev said the Presidential Secretariat staff as well as Presidential aides were the first to congratulate Yeltsin. The aides presented Boris Yeltsin with a large bunch of flowers and a book entitled "The Coats-of-arms of Cities, Gubernias, Regions and Posads (suburbs) of the Russian Empire". This unique edition reproduces several hundreds of coats-of-arms dating back to the 1649-1900 period.

Touching upon today's meetings with the President, Medvedev pointed out that there will be very many of them and it is quite likely that the need for a series of unscheduled meetings will emerge. Chief of the Presidential Staff Nikolay Yegorov called on the President at 10.00 a.m. The Head of State and Yegorov discussed the course of the implementation of the Presidential decree, which was signed on Monday, on a reorganisation of the Presidential administration.

Then Patriarch Aleksey II of Moscow and All Russia is to call on Boris Yeltsin. The Head of State and the Patriarch are to discuss religious problems as well as the situation that has developed in view of the seizure of two clergymen in the Chechen Republic. In connection with the incident, Patriarch Aleksey came forward with a statement which he will deliver to Boris Yeltsin, Medvedev said.

Yeltsin will have a scheduled meeting with Federation Council Speaker Yegor Stroyev to discuss matters aimed at strengthening cooperation between the Head of State and the Upper House of the Federal Assembly (parliament).

On Thursday afternoon, Yeltsin plans to confer with architects, builders, interior designers who are engaged in the reconstruction of the Kremlin's architectural monuments, specifically the former Senate building, where the Presidential residence is to be transferred soon. Mayor Yuri Luzhkov of Moscow will take part in the conference. It is noteworthy that, although interior design work at the new residence of Boris Yeltsin is

not yet completed, the Russian flag was hoisted at the building on Thursday.

In the evening, Boris Yeltsin will mark his 65th birthday at his country residence within the family circle and among his friends, Medvedev said.

In response to questions as to which gifts were presented to the President, Medvedev emphasised that "the time of expensive gifts has gone. The President does not like them. He highly values a kind attitude, candour, and presents offered in all sincerity".

Yeltsin 'Optimistic' About Russia's Prosperity

LD3101145696 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said he has an optimistic outlook for Russia and expressed the hope that it will cope with all its problems and emerge strengthened and prosperous.

"Our country will overcome all difficulties and become prosperous," Yeltsin said at a ceremony in the Kremlin where he presented state awards to scholars, artists, industrial administrators and military officers on Wednesday.

While presenting Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov with an award for "strengthening Russian statehood," Yeltsin praised the mayor for his contribution to the revival of the original architecture of the Russian capital and reconstruction of churches.

Luzhkov was awarded with a order "For Services to the Motherland," second class.

An order "For Services to the Motherland," third class, was awarded to newly appointed First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Kadannikov, the former general director of the AvtoVAZ auto works in Togliatti, Volga region.

Awards were also presented to artist Ilya Glazunov, composer Georgiy Sviridov, Yakut President Mikhail Nikolayev, Dagestani leader Magomedali Magomedov, Luzhkov's deputy Vladimir Resin and other officials.

Yeltsin Appoints Administration Officials

LD3101150196 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Wednesday to appoint Valeriy Viktorov as the presidential administration's deputy chief of staff.

Viktorov will also be in charge of the president's Main Department for Domestic and Foreign Policy.

Yeltsin also appointed Ruslan Orekhov as head of the president's Main State and Law Department.

The presidential press service told INTERFAX that the second appointment is connected with changes in the name of the department which previously did not have the word "Main."

Yeltsin Approves Appointments of Commission Heads

*LD3101140196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1349 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has approved today the appointment of Oleg Yemelyanovich Kutafin as Chairman of the Commission for citizenship under the president of the Russian Federation.

Boris Yeltsin also approved the appointment of Vladimir Antonovich Zolotarev as Chairman of the Commission for prisoners-of-war, internees and persons reported missing, which is subordinated to the president.

Yeltsin Sends Duma Comments on Wage Bill

*LD3101184696 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1717 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent his comments on the federal Wage Increase bill to the State Duma Wednesday, his press service reports.

The president noted that under the Minimum Wage Act of November 13, 1992, the minimum wages will be revised every three months and the latest rise ought to have taken place in November, but the bill provides for a staged increase starting from January 1. From that date the minimum wage will rise to 63,250 rubles a month.

For this reason the next increase should take place not from February 1, 1996, as the bill proposes, but from April 1, after three months, in line with the Minimum Wage Act.

Yeltsin Orders Prompt Payment of Public Sector Wages

*LD0102144296 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1316 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 1 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree on Thursday on additional measures to ensure prompt payment of salaries to public sector workers.

It provides for strict payment schedules in the sector, which includes the army and police.

The Russian prime minister is to report to the president at least once every two weeks on how salaries are being paid and on officials responsible for delays and partial payment of salaries in the public sector.

Yeltsin Appoints New Regional Governors

*LD0102124996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1126 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — The press service of the Russian president said today that Boris Yeltsin had appointed Vladislav Tikhomirov head of administration of Ivanovo region.

Another of the Russian president's edicts appointed Raviil Geniatulin head of administration of Chita region, having relieved him of the post of head of administration of the city of Chita.

Chernomyrdin Not To Rival Yeltsin in Elections

*LD0102073296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0648 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW YORK February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin made it clear on Thursday he would not rival President Boris Yeltsin if the latter decided to run for the second term of office at the June 16 elections.

Commenting on media reports that groups had been set up in some Russian cities to collect signatures and back Chernomyrdin as a presidential candidate, the premier told Tass he had nothing to do with that and was against such actions.

"I have not heard about that and I do not accept that. We are working with the president and everything will go as it should. I do not play such toys", Chernomyrdin said.

The premier has several times pledged he would not rival Yeltsin as president. The head of state is to announce his decision on whether to run for the second term of office in mid-February.

In the meantime, Russian media predicted that Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin may join the presidential race together to win more votes for the current administration. However, one of the two would step down at the final moment to give his votes to the remaining candidates. It was also rumoured that Yeltsin may dismiss Chernomyrdin after April 15, when the registration of presidential candidates is over, and put the blame for economic setbacks on him.

Commission Examines Russian Election Headquarters

*LD3101125996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1233 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[By Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The Central Election Commission (CEC) examined the establishment of a headquarters to prepare the presidential elections in Russia under the guidance of first vice-premier Oleg Soskovets, about which Boris Yeltsin announced on January 15.

Addressing the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) on Wednesday, CEC deputy chairman Aleksandr Ivanchenko said that the commission sent immediately an appropriate inquiry to the government and held a meeting on this problem on January 29.

He said that the commission received a reply signed by the head of the government's office, saying that the office did not draft any normative acts defining the status or tasks of this headquarters.

He stressed that this reply did not satisfy the CEC, and the commission intends to send an appropriate inquiry to the Russian president's office.

The deputy chairman noted that, in compliance with operating legislation, all decisions by bodies of state power and local self-government, connected with preparations for the elections, should be published in the media.

Bodies of state power "are duty-bound to render equal assistance to all presidential candidates". These bodies "should not help only one candidate in the presidential race," Ivanchenko emphasised.

The deputy chairman was invited to the Duma to inform legislators of preparations for the presidential elections.

Russia: Democrats Considering Nomination Strategy

*LD3101135296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1330 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Now leaders of the democratic camp are deciding a cardinal issue — whether nominate a single candidate or several nominees at the future presidential elections.

"It is difficult for one man to till a large field," deputy head of the All-Russian headquarters for presidential elections Sergey Filatov told ITAR-TASS today.

He is inclined to think that it is expedient for democrats, just as the opposition did, to nominate five or six presidential nominees for winning a larger electorate. But at a last stage of the election campaign five nominees should withdraw their candidatures in favor of the main candidate.

It should be noted in this connection that on the eve of the elections to the State Duma Academician Andrey Sakharov's widow urged leaders of democratic organisations — Gavril Popov, Irina Khakamada, Ella Panfilova, Konstantin Borovoy and Boris Fedorov — to withdraw lists of their electoral blocs from the Central Election Commission in favor of Russia's Democratic Choice headed by Yegor Gaydar. However, ambitions of leaders of small parties hindered them to follow this advice.

As a result neither Russia's Democratic Choice nor any democratic election organisation entered the State Duma. Not all of the listed politicians became deputies from one-seat constituencies.

There is no confidence that after nominating several candidates at the presidential elections, democratic leaders will voluntarily agree to make way for a stronger rival at the last stage of the election marathon.

At least, leader of "Yabloko" Grigoriy Yavlinskiy who was nominated as presidential candidate last Saturday, made a public statement saying that he did not see any worthy candidate for this post among democrats. "First give me his name," Yavlinskiy told journalists.

Sergey Filatov believes that "at present there is no other presidential nominee except Boris Yeltsin."

However, the position of Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and a recent appeal of Yegor Gaydar's supporters to the present head of state not to run for president for the second term, call into question the nomination of Boris Yeltsin as a single candidate from democrats.

Everything seems to indicate that the Russian president regards leaders of Russian regions, heads of enterprises and businessmen who are interested in preserving the status quo, as his mainstay at the future elections.

Sergey Filatov does not lose the hope to unite isolated like-minded persons for Boris Yeltsin's support. According to him, these days he has been working much with the Russian intelligentsia.

However, four and a half months before the elections the problem of a number of presidential nominees and the election strategy remains open for democrats.

Taking into consideration the split among democrats who allowed communists and the Liberal Democratic

Party of Russia to win the elections to the State Duma, the conclusion suggests itself that such a consolidation may remain a dream that has not come true.

**Democratic Concord in Russian Elections Remains
'Illusory'**

MK0102065496 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY
in Russian 31 Jan 96 p 3

[Article by Natalya Arkhangel'skaya: "A Discordant Orchestra in Search of a Conductor"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Duma deputy Ella Pamfilova has recently come out with the initiative to convene a congress of all rightist, center-right, and centrist parties and movements, where united democrats would decide on a common candidate for the presidential election. [passage omitted]

In theory, a broad spectrum of political forces — from Women of Russia and the Labor Union (Shcherbakov and Volskiy) to Democratic Russia and Gaydar's Russia's Democratic Choice (DVR) — could take part in the rallying action. Pamfilova has already secured the consent of Gaydar, Yavlinskiy, and Volskiy to take part in the event, and the others do not seem to be against. An expanded session of the Republican Party Political Council last Saturday [27 January] supported the initiative by adopting a corresponding resolution. Generally, broad masses of rank and file democratic parties' members responded to the idea with enthusiasm, but this may not be enough for agreeing on a common candidate — especially so because there is still no suitable figure.

Boris Yeltsin's candidacy has effectively no chances of being approved by the democratic forum: His last support in the democratic camp — Gaydar's DVR — has recently dissociated itself from him publicly. [passage omitted]

The second, and last, serious figure that could be discussed at a united democratic congress is Yavlinskiy. Yet, neither does he have good chances of leading this part of the political spectrum if only because by his own admission he himself is rather leftist than rightist. This has recently been clearly stated by Gaydar. It is not by accident that Yavlinskiy has less problem finding a common language with Gennadiy Zyuganov than with the NDR faction. [passage omitted]

Still, in the democratic land of the blind where the one-eyed is king, Yavlinskiy today is simply doomed to get the highest rating among potential candidates at the congress — although it is difficult to imagine that the democrats will unanimously promote the Yabloko leader for the presidency. Unless a new candidate suiting the majority appears on the horizon before the end of

February (when the consolidation congress is due to take place), there will be no real consolidation at the congress.

Meanwhile, such a candidacy is obvious and will apparently be named soon: Viktor Chernomyrdin — although the premier himself fiercely denies such a possibility. Everybody expects him to be publicly supported by the DVR, which ripened for this last summer and today has sent a salutary letter to Yeltsin in an effort to keep him from running. If a Chernomyrdin nomination does take place, the figure of the premier can serve to reconcile, if not the entire rightist flank of the political spectrum, then surely its majority: This is a compromise which virtually everybody is ready to accept (except Yavlinskiy, of course) in the present situation, which is extremely unfavorable for the democrats. [passage omitted]

The difficulty, however, is that until now Chernomyrdin has not dropped even the merest hint about his readiness to contest the election and is putting his loyalty to the president first. All this in spite of the fact that with his latest cadre reshuffles Yeltsin is openly undermining his premier's positions. Chernomyrdin cannot or does not want to resign demonstratively although it is perfectly clear that his premiership will at best last until mid-June. The only problem is how to leave saving his face and without defying the president. In this situation he can unwittingly be helped by the Yabloko leader, who has initiated a signature raising campaign in the Duma for a vote of no confidence in the government.

Seizing slogans from the Communists, Yavlinskiy wants to project himself as a greater royalist than the king himself, but this may not be to the liking of his sparring partner in the division of Duma portfolios. Today, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation does not need the government's resignation, which is being openly declared by its leaders. Their nerves may snap, though, if the slogans of an uncompromising struggle against the "antinational regime" are adopted by a rival in the contest for the presidential chair. This would be the best way out for Chernomyrdin, who could decently resign under the pretext of a no-confidence vote given to his cabinet. The tacit embargo on his political activity or his pledge given to the president would thus lose its force.

Still, it has to be admitted that the aforementioned scenario, on which the democrats are pinning their hopes, for all its attractiveness, has little chance of materializing. Therefore, the prospect of a democratic consolidation remains, as always, illusory.

UCP-CPSU To Back Zyuganov for Russian Presidency

*MK0102112896 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY
KOMSOMOLETE in Russian 1 Feb 96 p 2*

[Report by Eduard Glezin: "Unbreakable Union of Workers Communist Parties"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's nomination of [Gennadiy] Zyuganov as the presidential candidate of the Union of Communist Parties-Communist Party of the Soviet Union [UCP-CPSU] passed harmoniously, but not unanimously.

Speaking sharply against Zyuganov's candidacy was Comrade Tyulkin, who stated that "Zyuganov is of course better than Yeltsin, but he is unfortunately not a Communist, and his nomination could take the communist movement into a blind alley." Union of Communist Parties Chairman Oleg Sheynin said in his opening remarks that "we already have 35 million votes and, in order to win the presidential elections, it is necessary for communists to unite with national patriots and nominate a single candidate." Further addresses by representatives of the communist beau monde aired support for the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF], which was referred to in no other way but as a ray of light in the realm of darkness. A Kazakhstan representative urged grabbing what is now a unique chance to take power, which may never be there again. One of the CPRF leaders, Kuptsov, revealed "a terrible Bolshevik secret," saying that Zyuganov is only sustained by "patriotika" [patriotically-minded voters], whereas the purely communist electorate comprises as few as 10 percent of Russia's voters. Realistically assessing the electorate's mood (society is not moving to the left, there is only growing disaffection), Kuptsov urged that instead of agitating for communism in the course of the electoral campaign, there should be agitation against the "anti-popular regime." I also remember the rather ambiguous utterance of a Dniester Region representative: "The people are struggling today for survival, and we support them in this and go along with them...."

Coercion in Russian Election Campaign Reported

*LD3101131596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1231 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[By Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The Central Election Commission (CEC) has already registered cases of coercive collection of signatures in support of presidential candidates, said

here on Wednesday CEC deputy chairman Aleksandr Ivanchenko, addressing a plenary session of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house).

He was invited to the session to inform parliamentarians of preparations for the elections of Russian president.

Ivanchenko said that people were threatened with non-paying of wages if they do not sign signature lists. According to the deputy chairman, especially many such facts were registered in the system of the Railways Ministry.

"Signatures were collected in support of incumbent President Boris Yeltsin in such a way," he added.

Ivanchenko stressed that the CEC sent a warning to the ministry leadership about inadmissibility of such actions. The railways minister "is a real candidate to be heavily panned at a meeting of the commission".

The deputy chairman underlined that all facts of unlawful collection of signatures are registered by the commission, and if such signatures are received by the CEC, the commission "is ready to make public these facts".

Ivanchenko also stressed that the law "provides for removing presidential candidates from registration for violations committed while preparing documents for the election campaign."

Russian Finance Minister Injured in Car Crash

*LD0102143196 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1316 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 1 (INTERFAX) — According to confirmed reports, Russia's First Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov received injuries in a car accident on Wednesday, when his vehicle collided head-on with a Nissan in the opposite lane.

Moscow's traffic police said the accident occurred in Kutuzovskiy avenue. Petrov suffered a closed craniocerebral injury and facial cuts. He is in the Central Clinical Hospital. Petrov's driver was also taken to hospital. The Nissan's driver received an open fracture of the right hip and was hospitalized, the traffic police said.

The police official said that in a separate road accident earlier in the same day, a Lada car hit three boys in Shirokaya street, Northeastern district at 4:45 p.m. A four-year-old boy died. His eleven-year-old brother and the brother's 16-year-old friend were taken to hospital. The Moscow police initially said that Petrov had been hurt in that incident.

'Up to 80 Percent' of Russian Mines on Strike

LD0102101996 Moscow Russian Public Television
First Channel Network in Russian
0900 GMT 1 Feb 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] As of today, on the initiative of the miners' trade union, a Russia-wide miners' strike has begun. It has become clear by this hour that up to 80 percent of mining enterprises are taking part in the action. Vitaliy Gutko, the chairman of the Rosugleprof [Russian Miners Trade Union], reported that this morning Aleksandr Livshits, the Russian president's economic aide, was on the phone to him. Here is a commentary by Vladimir Polozhentsev with his report on the situation in the country.

[Polozhentsev] [video shows idle mines] Sakhalin miners were among the first to halt the dispatch and extraction of coal. According to a report by our correspondent, Viktor Korotkiikh, this action is so far expected to go on for two days. In Maritime Territory, the dispatch of coal was halted, but work has not been stopped yet. Everything will depend on how fast the 160 billion rubles, which the president obliged the government to send directly to the miners, will arrive. In Buryatiya, coal is being extracted and dispatched only to the most important energy sites. The extraction of coal has been halted in 49 mines and open cast mines of Kuzbass. But Kuzbass miners will be taking part in the Russia-wide strike selectively, to avoid the halting of technological processes at metallurgical enterprises and power stations. After all, it will take much longer to re-establish the rhythm of work there than to stop it. It is quiet in all sections of work in all the mines in eastern Donbass. The miners have called an indefinite strike and stopped the dispatch of coal to all consumers. The collectives of four coal mining enterprises in Khakassiya have stopped working. Only those on whom the operation of vital facilities in the mines depends have gone to work. All the five mines in the Republic of Komi have also started their indefinite strike. At the two ore-mining and processing factories Intinskaya and Kapitalnaya, the extraction and dispatch of coal has been suspended. The collectives of open cast mines in Krasnoyarsk region have not stopped their work. However they do support the demands of the Russian miners. As Nikolay Nikonenko, the chairman of the Federation of Chita Region's Trade Unions told us, the collectives of the coal mining enterprises in the region have decided not to take part in the strike, taking account of the difficult fuel situation. According to ITAR-TASS, 104 mines and 25 open cast mines are taking part in the strike.

Vorkuta Miners Demand Yeltsin, Government Resign

LD0102140596 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Vorkuta miners are radically inclined. They have put forward political demands, our correspondent Olga Sergeyeva reports.

[Sergeyeva] The trade unions have not refused to take part in consultations with government officials, insisting however that the strike would go ahead. From 0930 people started gathering near the Vorkutaugol administration building. Columns of people have been organized to march down the streets of this transpolar town to the square in front of the miners' Palace of Culture, where in 1989 all the actions protesting against the Soviet regime were staged. According to various estimates about 5,000 gathered in the square.

The speeches made not only economic but also political demands: Resignation of the federal government and the end of the war in Chechnya, which detracts enormous resources from the program for civilian building in Russia.

The resolution adopted at the rally says: The reforms that are being implemented are plunging our country ever deeper into the quagmire of the economic crisis, while driving the coal industry toward complete disintegration. Even now the state has no properly thought out program for the development of the coal industry or its restructuring.

We state this to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, and the Russian Government: You have not coped with your duties and have failed to keep your promises. You must therefore resign. That is the end of quotation.

Russian Government Provides Funds for Miners' Wage Arrears

LD0102124496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1155 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — "Funds amounting to 600,000 million roubles, which were assigned by the government to repay wage arrears, have been practically fully transferred to the coal enterprises of Russia. A timetable for the payment of funds in State support for the coal sector in 1996 to the tune of 10,400,000 million roubles is to be approved in the coming days," Yuriy Malyshev, General Director of the State-run Rosugol coal company, told journalists on Thursday.

Malyshev remarked that the possibility of granting an easier-term taxation procedure for the coal producers is to be decided upon subsequently. The coal miners insist that 50 percent of proceeds from the marketing of coal should be left at the local level for the payment of wages as against the current 20 percent.

At the same time, the coal miners will be probably allowed to postpone the payment of taxes in order to find additional funds for the payment of wages, Malyshev said. These measures, in his view, will reduce the intensity of strike struggle in the sector.

Touching upon the coal miners' strike, Malyshev, upon having recognised the legitimacy of miners' demands, pointed out that he regards as unacceptable the methods through which the miners seek to resolve their problems.

Russia: B. Fedorov Criticizes Proliferating Duma Committees

MM3101154896 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 30 Jan 96 p 1

[Article by State Duma Deputy Boris Fedorov: "'Victors' Are Turning State Duma Into Ministry, According to the Latest 'Bulletins' From the Front Line of the Construction of Our Democracy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of ceremonial posts of deputy speaker in the State Duma is growing rapidly. Voters should know that any new committee or deputy speaker means numerous apparatus wage packets, which are paid from the voters' pockets.

A battle is being fought against ballooning state apparatuses in many countries of the world, with the aim of reducing unproductive expenditure on functionaries at all levels.

In many countries, but not in ours. The new State Duma, in which new, senseless committees and posts of deputy Duma chairman are being created in order to satisfy the ambitions of various political groupings, is setting a bad example. Similar processes also typify the Federation Council.

Last time round, deputies in the State Duma ridiculed the "Zhirinovskiy-style" Committee for Geopolitics. Today several new committees of a similar nature have been created, and fears that some of them will not manage to muster sufficient members are being openly discussed.

The Communists and allied factions are feverishly transforming the State Duma into a huge ministry with a minister, deputies, and a gigantic apparatus — already almost 1,500 people, the bulk of whom, moreover, have no direct connection with the factions or deputies.

Functionaries outnumber the deputies themselves by three to one, and all are moreover equipped with private telephones and offices. I sometimes have the impression that the deputies themselves are somehow superfluous cogs in the complex machinery of the legislature. If you do not belong to the victorious party, you are never even given the floor in the State Duma.

Incidentally, the speaker, according to my observations, is as yet extremely feeble, but is learning more from Khasbulatov than Rybkin. Mr. Seleznev's jokes are sometimes more than dubious.

For me, the events of recent days are sad above all in that G. Yavlinskiy has manifestly begun to intrigue, going so far as to enter into a virtual pact with the Communists. It is already clear today that there is not even a hint of a truly democratic opposition in parliament, and we all have plenty to think about.

We have received a State Duma that is exclusively red and pink in color, and in the near future we can already expect crazy demands from the aggressive majority, especially on economic questions. One of the more sober representatives of this majority complained to me in the Duma lobbies that their leaders are unwilling to look at things rationally.

The parliamentary squabbles are taking place against the background of the resignation of the last major reformer in the government — A. Chubays. This indeed had to happen (it is strange that it did not come earlier), but the circumstances of this event are sad.

A. Chubays is undoubtedly one of the most talented and strongest young politicians. He is by no means a weakling. Of the members of "Gaydar's team," he alone has developed into a major statesman.

A. Chubays undoubtedly made major, and often unforgivable, mistakes. The recent experiments with shares-for-loans auctions severely undermined his reputation and damaged the cause of reforms. A. Chubays has always been overly confident of the correctness of his own opinions and did not accept that others also know something about reforms.

However, it is unfair to pin responsibility for all the sins and omissions of the authorities on one man, since many others should also shoulder the blame. We should not periodically look for scapegoats, especially since this is rather like fulfilling a Communist Party program. Particularly since we do not know how the attempt to "modify the course" will end.

It is obvious that it would be useful before the presidential elections to consolidate all democratic forces in the face of the common danger to democracy and the

reforms. Today the danger of the dissipation of these forces is all too obvious.

In many ways 1996 will be more important than previous years, since it will plot the course of our existence until the end of the century.

What this course will be depends on us alone.

Russian Federation Council Speaker Expounds Economic Credo

MM3001140496 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
27 Jan 96 p 1

["Topical Interview" with Yegor Stroyev, newly elected Speaker of the Federation Council, by Valentina Nikiforova; place and date not given: "Yegor Stroyev: 'The People Have Grown Tired of Confrontation'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The people now arriving in or returning to power are professionals and practical people who have not only managed to analyze what has been going on during the decade of political turmoil but have also managed to survive along with the collectives that they lead. It is clearly no coincidence that Yegor Semenovitch Stroyev, head of the Orel Oblast Administration, has been elected chairman of the Federation Council.

In the first few days as chairman of the upper chamber he considered it necessary to meet with representatives of our editorial office.

PRAVDA Chief Editor Aleksandr Alekseyevich Ilin also took part in this conversation. We wanted to know what Ye. Stroyev has brought with him to power.

[Nikiforova] Yegor Semenovitch, by accepting the post of Federation Council chairman you are returning to the capital's political life. Why have you done that?

[Stroyev] Circumstances dictate that I am returning not so much through my own will as because of the general situation in the country. In my opinion, all the political parties and the people in particular have grown tired of confrontation. What we need today is a stability which is not imposed from the top but which emanates from the people themselves. And if the situation is to be brought under control it needs people from that milieu — the milieu of the people. Those people who have learned the hard way, who understand what is going on, and most important who know what is to be done.

Let us note that anti-Communism as a phenomenon and as an aggressive ideology aimed at disdaining and repudiating the past has failed. Today it arouses irritation. Not only among people of the older generation but all normal people. Anti-communism is perceived as the invasion of the wreckers and a kind of pestilence

that people want to get rid of. But at the same time they are looking for a calm, balanced approach and, accordingly, people who could assert the values of life which have existed for centuries among our people. Among our people, I repeat, not "the people abroad." Through these values they will be able to preserve the statehood and themselves and therefore the future of their children, the people, and the country.

[Nikiforova] You have said in public that you are proud of your past, present, and future. I understand what you mean about the past. But can one be proud of the present?

[Stroyev] I am proud of the present day — as an historical category — simply because at the fateful hour (our famous writer Ivan Alekseyevich Bunin used the term "these accursed days") I was once more with the people who gave me my upbringing and elected me four times to the supreme organ of state power. The people understand and support me. I am proud to be working on the reforms at this time as I have done before. I am working on in-depth reforms. I am not arguing about the multisector economy: I can see what it is really like. I do not argue but assert that any party which opposes private property today will be wrong. But I also believe that the individual has the right to dispose of the results of his own labor and that the state should not remain a passive observer of the processes in society.

Authorities are elected not merely so that they may exist — so that they may live and reign. The people elect a power to help them themselves to live. And to live better, not worse. For that purpose the authorities, regardless of their political preferences, are obliged to offer society alternative ways of achieving the best future.

[Nikiforova] Do you have a vision on how to make the best choice?

[Stroyev] Beginning with the institute that I led and later as head of Orel Oblast Administration I have constantly worked on that question. One of my themes is the problem of budget federalism. Representatives of the Russian associations held a conference in Orel 5 December. Workers from the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank and leaders of the republics' associations were invited to attend. They discussed reports (including mine) and said that the further unitarization of the budget would bring the country nothing but harm. Today 84.6 percent of the regions are subsidized (in the Soviet Union that figure was just 1 percent). The number of subsidy recipients is not diminishing but increasing. The tax burden is becoming heavier and the people are left with scraps which have to be shared out among schools, hospitals, the land which sustains us, and industry. On

the one hand, we advocate the formation of a federal state but on the other we are "doing" our best to destroy this state.

We have noted that the living standards of the rich and the poor today differ by a factor of about 14-15. Such polarization is unacceptable and the state cannot watch this with indifference. The State Duma, the Federation Council, and the government must work together to find mechanisms to overcome this crisis. Now there is another, more dangerous polarization — between the various regions. If wages in Alaska and California differ from those in Texas by only 1.8 times and there is no wage differential greater than two even in the United States, why is it dozens of times higher in our country? This means that the credit-finance system, the engine of the economy, has broken free and is out of control. It has reduced a wealthy country to the kind of difficulties that must be overcome today.

[Nikiforova] Yegor Semenovich, in any undertaking it is necessary to define the basis, the pivotal point, the beginning. Given that the Orel institute has become a laboratory of economic survival and perhaps of development *what does it have to offer and what did the participants in the conference agree on?*

[Stroyev] First, in the legislative sphere it is necessary to elaborate a social minimum living standard for people regardless of where they live, be it in Moscow, on Sakhalin, or in Krasnodar Kray. In the Orel region, for example, on the border with Kursk Oblast they mine ores. The forests and rivers in our region are dying. In the past water used to be gotten at a depth of 50 meters, now they have to drill down to 200 meters. We send metal pellets to the Cherepovtsy or Lipetsk metallurgical combines. They sell the output abroad and make the profit.

Or take the people of Ivanovo — is it really their fault that they have textile combines in their region? The enterprises are standing idle and the people have no work: How are they to be fed? Should they convert production? But that must be resolved in a well-considered way — economic ideas on that score have been elaborated within budget federalism.

We have a second suggestion: state regulation. It is not right that gas and electricity prices rise dozens of times over in the space of a year, wages cannot keep pace, can they? Prices for 60 percent of goods in the Russian market are higher than world prices. Today it is cheaper to buy solar oil and gasoline (for the spring sowing) abroad — in Belarus — than at home from the YuKOS company. A normal man cannot understand what is really going on. The base sectors on which the fate of

all the rest depends are under state control throughout the world.

There is another point here: the theory of balances. Science knows how much electricity, gas, metal, and even grain there is in the world. The rich countries know this, they make skillful use of it to dictate their policy and reduce our state to a position of dependency. Even though we are a great power.

[Nikiforova] Unfortunately we are just a big power now.

[Stroyev] But if we kept a balance within the country we would not be so dependent. Everyone says: "We are macroeconomists, let us not get involved in microeconomics!" But can we really separate one stratum, one level? America no longer suffers crises simply because it has learned from us.

Russia is experiencing food problems. It now imports 58 percent from abroad. And at the same time people exclaim: "Gaydar fed the country! Look at how much food there is in the stores!"

Yes, there is a lot. I went to a store on the Arbat: A liter of milk — good milk — there costs 4,000 (four thousand!) rubles. In Orel it costs R700 a liter. But even that is too expensive!

There is the so-called food zone in Russia which remains virtually untouched by any authority. This is a reserve, the 47 million hectares of Russian Chernozem land! Dokuchayev said that Russia's wealth consists not in its forests, its gold, or even its oil and gas — Russia's wealth consists in its Russian Chernozem soil. Yet on this territory we produce harvests of 18-22 quintals per hectare! We plow millions of hectares in Siberia and they are further north than Moscow. We drain marshes and plow them. But in the Chernozem region it is possible to get 50-80 quintals per hectare! A harvest even of 35 quintals per hectare will make the country independent forever. This region could produce 80 percent of the sugar, it could make good the shortfall in grain, it produces one-half of the metal and 80 percent of the machine building output and it has a huge intellectual potential. This is the region that the debate was about when the virgin lands were opened up. After the war Molotov said: "Let us put everything right here, let us help this region." But Khrushchev insisted: "Let us go to the virgin lands." And all the resources were invested there.

[Nikiforova] Was the virgin lands program a mistake? Should we not have gone there?

[Stroyev] It was not a mistake as such. It should have been viewed as a temporary measure, an easy way to produce grain and support people. But the main forces

should have been channeled into the Chernozem region. We in the Orel Guberniya still cannot get back to the pre-revolutionary population level and the death rate is twice as high as the birth rate. Unless we treat the Chernozem region as the basis of the state we will not make any progress.

Then there is a question of concern to everyone — the federal organization of the state. We have the framework, the outer shell of power. But we need content, that is, we need tried and tested inner links up to and including the system of local self-government.

I am proud of the future, I believe in my people, and I believe that the malaise of the loss of faith in our fatherland will not prevail. This is shown by the fact that people are beginning to understand what is going on and are electing sensible people to power. But we must ensure that people are not intimidated by the fact that allegedly orthodox thinkers [ortodoksy] have come to power. Remember how the Erhard government in Germany [1963-1966] recruited specialists from the old regime. They all worked for Germany's recovery and look at Germany today.

[Nikiforova] There is a precedent in Russia: Lenin recruited the czar's generals and engineers and gave every conceivable benefit to scientists.

[Stroyev] Yes, Russia needs pragmatists who could do a determined, professional job without political bias.

[Nikiforova] When supporting your election as chairman, [Nizhniy Novgorod Administration leader] Boris Nemtsov said that the reforms are proceeding equally well in Nizhniy Novgorod and Orel oblasts. Is that an attempt to curry favor with a contender for the chairmanship of the Federation Council who has the blessing of the president himself?

[Stroyev] I am grateful for this assessment of the course of the reforms. Nemtsov spoke the truth because approaches to the reforms of the countryside were developed in Orel. Academician Novikov took part in them. In Orel we have already worked on the collective contract and the lease, then the private farming movement began, and the shared form of ownership started up. With a group of scientists we elaborated a methodology. On 23 June 1993 we held an international economic conference where I drew the main conclusion (there were representatives of Britain, France, Germany, and Poland there). We have an international economic reform group in operation and are holding study courses not only with our own people but with students from Rostov, Tula, Ukraine, and Belarus. It may be said that the Nizhniy Novgorod group came into being here.

Leaving aside populism we have no disagreements with them.

[Nikiforova] What kind of populism do you mean?

[Stroyev] The kind in which they latch onto one idea as the panacea. I regard the agrarian reform as more than just a land reform.

The agrarian reforms includes land, the price formation system, social development, mutual relations between the peasantry and the state, and the peasantry's participation in public life. The agrarian reform cannot exist without scientific and technical progress. It was tried out on one farm and, over the past five years — by no means the best years — grain production has tripled.

[Nikiforova] There was friction in relations between the State Duma and the Federation Council in the previous period. Either the State Duma was hasty in the adoption of laws or the Federation Council was trying to assert its supremacy as the upper chamber. How should work be organized?

[Stroyev] My main task is to find a path for harmonious work. Gennadiy Seleznev and I have invited one another to speak: Let us work harmoniously.

[Nikiforova] How do you regard the present form of power?

[Stroyev] I would not draw attention to the form right now. I have been to France where I visited various communes — they do not fight shy of the name over there. They also have Councils [Sovet]. But they have the main thing — they have budget federalism! The main concern today is not the name but the content! We are working under a Constitution in which the main thing is presidential rule. I believe that we should pull out all the stops to endow the regional organs of power and local self-government — those places where the people live — with constitutional rights.

[Nikiforova] Can you say a few words for our readers and the PRAVDA collective.

[Stroyev] I think that PRAVDA still means the TRUTH. Even in these troubled times it has not resorted to extremism but has maintained common sense and an understanding of the entire complexity of processes taking place. It does not stand aside from them but tries to be constructive and sympathetic. But at the same time it openly and honestly defends the life of the man in the street, the basis of the state. I have read this newspaper since my childhood and I still read it today.

[Nikiforova] Thank you! Should they not nominate you as a presidential contender for that?

[Stroyev] What do you mean! I would feel sorry for my wife. A woman, especially one who is a teacher, understands the highest form of responsibility better than anyone.

Text of Local Self-Government Support Program

MM3101164996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 27 Jan 96 p 14

["Federal Program of State Support for Local Self-Government, Ratified by Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1251 Dated 27 December 1995" — from the "Business in Russia" section]

[FBIS Translated Text]

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Russian Federation Constitution has enshrined the autonomy of local self-government. The Federal Program of State Support for Local Self-Government (hereinafter called the Program) has been elaborated with the aim of implementing the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution, the Federal Law "On the General Principles of the Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation," and Edict of the Russian Federation President No. 1616 "On Certain Measures to Give State Support to Local Self-Government," dated 9 October 1993, which determine the basic principles of the local self-government system and the transfer from centralized methods of leadership to methods of legal, organizational-methodological, and financial influence on the formation of the local self-government system.

2. The present Program determines the basic spheres of state support for local self-government. Local self-government within the system of the state structure, by autonomously tackling issues of local significance, carries out the following tasks:

strengthens the fundamentals of government by the people;

creates conditions for providing for the population's vital needs;

conducts measures relating to the social protection of the population;

stabilizes the political system;

trains cadres for municipal organs.

3. Taking into account the role of local self-government in the state system, the Program is designed to promote the implementation of state policy in respect of local self-government.

II. THE AIM AND BASIC TASKS OF THE PROGRAM

4. The aim of the Program is to ensure the formation and development of the self-government of the Russian Federation population.

5. The basic tasks of the Program are as follows:

to ensure the elaboration of a legal basis for local self-government activity, which creates the conditions for carrying out its functions;

to create the necessary conditions for the formation of a developed system of local self-government;

to ensure a gradual transfer from centralized state administration to decentralized administration by handing over to municipal formations the powers and resources needed for autonomously tackling issues of local significance;

to work out forms of interaction between organs of state power and organs of local self-government;

to ensure legal, financial, and resource guarantees for the rights of local self-government.

III. FORMS AND METHODS OF IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM

6. The choice of forms and methods of implementing the Program was made on the basis of principles established by the Russian Federation Constitution and the Federal Law "On the General Principles of the Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation."

7. With a view to implementing the Program, the following are being carried out:

a) the elaboration and publication of federal laws by the federal organs of state power, and the adoption of legislative and other legal acts envisaged in the transitional provisions of the Federal Law "On the General Principles of the Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation" by organs of state power of Russian Federation components in accordance with them;

b) the provision of scientific-methodological assistance to local self-government organs and organs of state power of Russian Federation components on questions of organizing local self-government;

c) the organization of the training of cadres for working in local self-government organs;

d) the creation of local self-government information networks;

e) the coordination of the activity of the Russian Federation government, Russian Federation ministries and departments, and Russian Federation components' organs of executive power on questions of the reform of local self-government;

f) the involvement of unions and associations of local self-government organs in cooperation with state and municipal organs.

IV. BASIC SPHERES OF STATE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

8. The present Program envisages the following basic spheres of state support for local self-government:

the formation of a legal base for local self-government;

the formation of a financial-economic base for local self-government;

organizational-methodological support for local self-government and the formation of a system of state monitoring of the activity of local self-government;

information support and information backup for the activity of local self-government;

the creation of a system for the training and retraining of cadres for local self-government organs.

9. With the aim of forming a legal base for the activity of local self-government, it is necessary to adopt legal acts of Russian Federation components enshrining the following:

the demarcation of competence and powers between the organs of state power of Russian Federation components and local self-government organs;

the special features of the organization of local self-government in the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg;

the procedure for forming local self-government financial resources;

the formation of municipal property;

constitutional norms in the formation of a financial-economic basis for local self-government;

the status of a municipal employee.

Specific measures of state support for local self-government in the Russian Federation in the sphere of forming a legal basis for local self-government in 1996 are presented in Appendix No. 1.

10. With a view to providing the relevant financial and economic resources for the functions of local self-government, it is necessary:

to organize municipal property;

to ensure a clear demarcation in income and expenditure between the federal budget and the budgets of Russian Federation components, and also within Russian Federation components: between republic, kray, oblast, okrug, and Moscow and St. Petersburg city budgets on the one hand, and the local budgets on the other hand. Budgets at every level must correspond to the powers and functions which are entrusted to the organs of state power of Russian Federation components and local self-government organs;

to take into account, during the formation of a privatization program, the right of local self-government organs to independently handle municipal property;

to specify municipal formations' rights to handle land.

Specific measures of state support for local self-government in the Russian Federation in the sphere of the formation of a financial-economic base for local self-government in 1996 are presented in Appendix No. 2.

11. The autonomous nature of local self-government within the bounds of its powers and the non-state status of its organs demands a transition from centralized management of their activity on the part of state organs of executive power to legislative regulation, methodological support of local self-government, and the formation by Russian Federation organs of state power of an effective system for monitoring the conformity between federal legislation and the laws of Russian Federation components on the one hand and the decisions adopted by local self-government organs on the other hand. In order to implement this transition and give organizational-methodological assistance in forming local self-government:

Russian Federation ministries and departments and organs of state power of Russian Federation components, together with local self-government organs, must prepare methodological recommendations on the performance by local self-government organs of functions within their competence;

a procedure for coordinating the recommendations made by state organs of power on questions of local self-government between all the levels of power must be perfected;

a system for analyzing, summarizing, and exchanging experience in the activity of organs of local self-government must be formed.

Organizational-methodological measures of state support for local self-government in the Russian Federation in 1996 are presented in Appendix No. 3.

12. With a view to providing for the activity of organs of local self-government and organizing their effective interaction with organs of state power, it is necessary to create a system of information-analysis support based on the use of up-to-date information technology. To this end, the following is planned:

the creation of new and the development of existing local information networks in local self-government organs and regional analytical centers and their connection with the federal information-telecommunications system;

the adoption of administrative decisions ensuring a unified program policy in this sphere coordinated with organs of state power of Russian Federation components;

the provision of financial support to local self-government organs primarily for the elaboration of a concept of an information network, and the acquisition and manufacture of software and the necessary hardware;

the elaboration of a system of state and municipal information standards;

the training of cadres and the organizational-structural development of an information system.

Specific measures of state support for local self-government in the Russian Federation in the sphere of information backup in 1996 are represented in Appendix No. 4.

13. With the aim of enhancing the efficiency of the activity of local self-government organs, it is necessary to create a system for the training and retraining of cadres.

Within the framework of the Program, it is necessary:

to prepare and circulate scientific and methodological literature and training programs;

to determine the basic educational institutes for training and retraining municipal employees;

to form consultation centers and centers for the retraining of cadres in Russian Federation components;

to form a Russia-wide center for scientific-methodological backup for local self-government organs based on existing cadre centers.

Specific measures for the creation of a system of training and improving the skills of cadres for local self-government organs in the Russian Federation in 1996 are presented in Appendix No. 5.

V. BASIC PHASES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

14. The program envisages two main phases for its implementation:

the first phase — during 1996 — envisages the creation of basic conditions for the formation of a local self-government system and primarily a legal base for local self-government, the establishment of legal guarantees for it, and the demarcation of financial and material resources between federal organs of state power, organs of power of Russian Federation components, and local self-government organs, and the creation of a cadre and information backup system (the elaboration of concepts for cadre and information provision and so on)

the second phase — during 1997-1998 — envisages the implementation of measures for the actual formation of the local self-government system.

VI. MAIN EXECUTORS OF THE PROGRAM

15. The main executors of the Program are:

Russian Federation ministries and departments;

organs of state power of Russian Federation components;

local self-government organs;

unions and associations of organs of local self-government.

16. Supervision of the implementation of the Program is entrusted to the Russian Federation Ministry for Affairs of Nationalities and Regional Policy.

VII. THE FUNDING OF THE PROGRAM

The Program will be funded from federal budget resources and from the budgets of Russian Federation components, with their agreement, as well as local budgets and the funds of unions and associations of local self-government organs.

"Business in Russia" is not publishing Appendices 1,2,3,4,5.

Military Issues

Yeltsin Assigns Davydov to Military Policy Council

LD0102145696 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1316 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 1 (INTERFAX) — President Yeltsin signed a decree to appoint Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov as First Deputy Chairman of the Coordinating Council for

Russia's Military-Technical Policy, the president's press service said on Thursday.

The appointment was made in accordance with the changes to the decree on the Coordinating Council for Russia's Military-Technical Policy suggested by the government. The decree was issued on June 14 last year.

According to the president's decision, the post of first deputy chairman of the Coordinating Council must be filled by a deputy prime minister, the press service said.

New Russian Defense Chief Suggests Reduced, Better-Armed Army

LD0102102896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1012 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Valentina Alekseyeva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — New chief of the Russian State Committee of the defence industry Zinoviy Pak has suggested a draft programme to President Yeltsin, which envisages that the army should be reduced, but better armed. The programme was developed jointly with the Russian Economics Ministry and the Russian Defence Ministry on the principle of reasonable sufficiency necessary for the defence of the country under the present economic conditions.

At a meeting with Boris Yeltsin on January 27 Pak said that the army in its former size would be a burden to Russia and therefore, Russia does not need it. Pak believes that unless such a programme is adopted, the defence industry would not survive.

Pak pointed out that if he had no clear idea of the ways of taking defence enterprises out of the critical situation he would not have accepted his new post, adding that he had agreed to his new appointment after thorough considerations which demanded "colossal effort" and that he well realizes the "responsibility" which his decision entails and how difficult it would be to carry through his plans.

Pak believes that the first step should be to outline scientific and technical directions of priority importance in the development of the Russian defence industry, primarily giving support to "double-purpose" technologies. Pak does not object to foreign investments in such projects, pinning great hopes on the creation of financial-industrial associations. Pak said he was prepared to tackle the problem of mutual payments and timely payments for state orders.

The newly appointed chief of the defence industry told journalists that he was born in Ukraine, dispelling doubts which his unusual name had arisen among

Korean journalists. Pak is master of technical sciences and an academician of the academy of natural sciences. He said that he had never had ambitions to work in Moscow and accepted posts which helped him carry on scientific work.

Russian Government Allocates Extra R7 Trillion for Defense

LD0102131096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1210 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Government earmarked at the end of 1995 an additional 7 trillion rubles [R] to finance the defense order, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview.

Cancelling the payment of penalties and fines for those enterprises of the military-industrial complex that had fulfilled the state defense order in 1994-1995 could have a positive effect on the financial situation of defense enterprises, the first deputy prime minister believes. The government intends to conduct a pilot experiment implementing this idea at Tomsk territory enterprises in the near future.

Possibly, as another measure, the cabinet would allocate finances for the payment of overdue heat and electricity bills, Soskovets said. Enterprises in the Tomsk territory alone now owe R52.5 billion to the power engineering industry.

Soskovets had previously instructed the Defense Ministry to prepare regulations on the "all-round defense order" and the provisions for its payment. These regulations must envisage that the state defense order is meant not only for the military-industrial complex but also for enterprises in other industries that contribute to the production, such as power engineering, metallurgical industry, and so on.

According to the information of a state committee for defense industries' spokesman, the defense order should be around R50-54 trillion to ensure that the enterprises of the military industrial complex work to capacity. The Defense Ministry believes, for its part, that some R62 trillion should be allocated for the purchasing and maintenance of the military equipment.

Soskovets Asks for Explanation of Defense Wages Debt

LD0102143996 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1336 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 1 (INTERFAX) — First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets

instructed the Chairman of the National Committee for Defense Industries Zinovy Pak, Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Astakhov and First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin to speak in the State Duma on the problem of payment of wages in enterprises of the military-industrial complex, Soskovets' aide Yuriy Mikhaylov told INTERFAX on Thursday.

On Wednesday, State Duma deputies invited Soskovets to make a report Friday on how the debts connected with the payment of wages to military-industrial complex workers and coal miners are covered.

His decision to call on the leaders of the National Committee for Defense Industries, the Finance Ministry and the Defense Ministry, as the main client of defense complex enterprises, is quite justified, Mikhaylov said. "These people are competent and have exhaustive information," he added.

A new post has been introduced in all ministries and federal departments — state secretary/deputy minister — for the purpose of informing the State Duma of the situation in the country's economy, industries and social security area, Mikhaylov said. The holders of the new posts will be responsible for establishing close contacts with Russia's parliament, Mikhaylov said.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Lukin Urges Postponement of START-2 Ratification

LD3101142496 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the State Duma International Committee Vladimir Lukin thinks that ratification of the START-2 is "very beneficial for Russia," but the ratification procedure should be postponed until the elections of the new Russian president.

Otherwise, the treaty ratification can be prevented by a number of presidential candidates, whose current principle is "to be elected at any cost," said Lukin.

The treaty is beneficial because Russia is possibly able to maintain "equally acceptable limits of strategic armaments (3,000-3,500 warheads)," when it will hardly be able to maintain larger amounts, said Lukin. At the same time, the United States is able to maintain "up to 8,000 warheads," he said.

If the treaty is not ratified, the correlation of forces may change and make Russia "a secondary nuclear power," noted the law-maker.

He did not agree that START-2 ratification can be directly linked with expansion of NATO, but noted a

certain indirect relationship. In his opinion, the START-2 will give more possibilities to Russia, and the "worse relations we have with NATO, the more we need this treaty."

Lukin reminded that the problem of NATO expansion is "suspended" and its discussion has been reduced because of the stand of Russia, which firmly announced that NATO expansion is not acceptable to it.

Yeltsin Returns Law on State, Municipal Enterprises to Duma

LD3101150796 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has returned to the State Duma a draft federal law "On State and Municipal Unitary Enterprises," sources at the presidential press service told INTERFAX.

A letter addressed to chairman of the parliament lower chamber Gennadiy Seleznev says that article 107 of the Duma rules was violated — the document was adopted in the first reading without being discussed by the law-makers. It also was "not subjected to a linguistic examination, and submitted to the president in a negligent form."

Yeltsin informed the Duma speaker that "the draft law has to be submitted for consideration of Russian regions and republics, bearing in mind it concerns the issues of joint competence of Russia and its constituent members."

Commission To Analyze Russia's Privatization Results

LD3101150596 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — The State Duma or lower house of the Russian parliament on Wednesday set up a commission to analyze the outcome of privatization in 1992-1995. It includes representatives of all parliamentary factions and groups.

The house in a draft resolution has given the new commission until March 6 to determine the list of questions for analyzing the first and second stages of privatization. It is offered to take measures for "checking enterprises which are in breach of the established legislation."

Proposals were also made to allow economic and other house committees to take part in the commission's work, since the process of privatization was going on not only

in industry and transport but also in health and education areas.

The commission is also recommended to coordinate work with the Accounting Office, which has been auditing the State Property Committee for the second month now.

Soskovets 'Has Not Received' Invitation To Speak in Duma

LD3101151296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1414 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — First Vice-Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets has not received an invitation from the State Duma to speak about the payment of wages and salaries in the military-industrial complex, officials in his office said.

"We have not received any official paper from the State Duma Office addressed to Oleg Soskovets inviting him to talk about the payment of wages and salaries in the military-industrial complex," they told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

Earlier today, the Duma voted, at the initiative of the Regions of Russia group, to invite Soskovets to its session on February 2 to explain why the payment of wages and salaries in the military-industrial complex has been delayed.

In mid-December 1995, Russian President Boris Yeltsin urged the government to determine a schedule of wage payments in the defence industry.

The present schedule covers a period of three months — October, November and December — and calls for paying 7.6 trillion roubles.

The bulk of the debt — 3.1 trillion roubles — was paid by the Finance Ministry before the end of 1995.

The ministry said that the current outstanding debt is not bigger than 0.2 trillion roubles.

Duma To Check Arms Spending in Russia

LD3101152796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1428 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By Ivan Novikov and Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The State Duma asked its committees for budget, defence and security to check how budget funds allocated for arms purchases are used.

The decision, initiated by Aleksandr Vengerovskiy of the Liberal Democratic Party, was supported by the majority of deputies.

Vengerovskiy explained the need for the check by the fact that the upcoming ratification of the START-2 treaty will necessitate changes in the defence budget, but should not affect the already approved arms programmes.

Russia: Duma Supports Miners' Wage Demands

LD3101153796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1421 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS)

— A statement in which the deputies announced "their support for certain legal demands by miners' collectives regarding the repayment of the 1995 wage debt to them in full," has been adopted by the State Duma today. The adoption of the document in question has been timed to coincide with the Russia-wide miners' strike scheduled for 1 February. The statement also says that members of parliament intend to send an empowered delegation of the State Duma to hold urgent talks with the Russian president on the adoption of urgent measures to resolve the problem of the coal industry.

The deputies wish to draw the attention of the president, government, and society as a whole to the fact that any further ignoring of the just demands by the miners' collectives may involve labor collectives of other industries in the conflict and lead to the most destructive economic and political shockwaves in the country.

"In the last three years miners have asked the president for a meeting many times to resolve the problems that have arisen but received no reply," the statement says. "All this is a direct consequence of the paralysis and irresponsibility of the executive power that has placed itself outside the social and parliamentary control," the document stresses.

Russia: Lebed Joins 'Popular Rule' Duma Faction

LD3101193196 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1717 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — Duma deputy Aleksandr Lebed joined the Popular Rule Duma faction headed by Nikolay Ryzhkov Wednesday after the faction had considered his application, the Popular Rule press office told INTERFAX.

According to the press office, the faction voted unanimously to accept Lebed.

Lebed would not comment on the admission, saying that he joined the faction "to work and not to make a fuss about it."

Currently, the Popular Rule faction has 38 members. Lebed, a leader of the Congress of Russian Communities (KRO), was elected Duma deputy in a single-mandate constituency in Tula. He is a presidential candidate from the KRO.

Russia: Duma Confirms Membership of All 28 Committees

LD3101144996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1144 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Today the State Duma confirmed the membership of the committees of the lower house of the Russian parliament. The heads of all 28 Duma committees had been confirmed by the deputies already the week before. Now "the rank and file" has been confirmed.

Most of the deputies wanted to work in the committee that deals with the budget, taxes, banks, and finances. Forty-eight parliamentarians all put themselves down for this committee, but Duma regulations stipulate that, as a rule, the number of members in a committee should not exceed 35.

Russia: Legislative, Regulatory Documents 21-27 Jan

96P50042

[FBIS Report] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parentheses indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

**SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION
(EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING,
PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT)**

Government 25 November Directive No. 1625 Approving Plan To Hold Small-Business Congress In Moscow In First Quarter Of 1996. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 5) (250)

Government 12 December Decree No. 1220 On Use Of Chernozem Land And Kizlyar Pastures. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 5) (600)

Government 12 December Decree No. 1222 On Licensing Firms Engaged In Foreign Tourism. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 5) (100)

Government 16 December Directive No. 1719 Extending Term Of R70-Billion State Loan To Chukot Okrug Until 1 April 1996. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 5) (100)

Government 26 December Decree No. 1263 Authorizing Publication Of Official Securities, Stock Bulletin. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 4) (250) (Text)

Government 27 December Decree No. 1295 Amending Earlier Ruling On Exchange Of Promissory Notes Between Enterprises. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 4) (150)

Government 8 January Decree No. 8 Amending Earlier Ruling On Gas Industry Monopoly. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 4) (200) (Text)

Federal Law No. 7, Given Presidential Assent 12 January, 'On Noncommercial (i.e. Non-Profit-Making, Public) Organizations.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 3, 4) (9500)

Government 16 January Decree No. 36 Extending Life Of Ingushetia Most-Favored Economic Zone. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 4) (800) (Text)

Yeltsin 18 January Edict No. 62 Overruling Bashkortostan Import Levy. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 4) (200) (Text)

Yeltsin 19 January Edict No. 65 Granting Enterprises, Organizations Period Of Grace To Pay Taxes Etc. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 4) (850) (Text)

Yeltsin 24 January Edict No. 86 On Measures To Restore The Chechen Republic's Economy And Social Sphere. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 96 p 7) (700) (Text)

**SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL
AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME,
POLLUTION)**

Government 4 December Decree No. 1205 Seeking Duma Ratification Of Black Sea Bank Agreement, Appointing Representative. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 5) (300) (Text)

Government 16 December Decree No. 1237 On Funding Amenities For Minority Populations In North Chukot Okrug. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 6) (300)

Government 26 December Decree No. 1257 On Federal Development Plan For Mordova. (Moscow

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 4) (700) (Text)

Government 26 December Decree No. 1275 Approving Federal Targeted Fire Safety Program (300); Plus Text Of Program (1250); Plus Aleksandr Sharov Commentary (600). (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 5)

Government 26 December Decree No. 1280 Extending Number Of Military Faculties In Higher Education Institutions (200), With Associated List Of Institutions (750). (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 6)

Government 26 December Decree No. 1288 On Supporting Innovation In Industry. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 96 p 12 (600))

Federal Law No. 223, Adopted By State Duma 8 December and Signed By President Yeltsin 29 December On Family Code Of The Russian Federation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 96 pp 3-6, 7 (22000))

Government 31 December Directive No. 1781 Deeming It Expedient To Accept UK Loan Of 22 Million Pounds For Financing Equipment For Karachayevo-Cherkessk Sugar Refinery. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jan 96 p 1) (250)

Government 31 December Directive No. 1784 Approving German Loan For Rosneftegazstroy. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 5) (250)

Government 12 January Decree No. 12 Setting Up Voice Of Russia State Radio Broadcasting Company. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 5) (300) (Text)

Federal Law No. 12 Adopted By Duma 13 July, Approved By Federation Council 5 January, Signed By Yeltsin 13 January, On Amendments, Additions To Law On Education, Plus Valentina Molodtsova Article On Its Main Provisions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jan 96 pp 3-6) (23000/900)

Government 13 January Decree No. 25 On Social Insurance For Central Government Employees. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 5) (450)

Yeltsin 17 January Directive No. 22 Adding Tomsk And Voronezh Duma Chairmen To Federation Council Working Group. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 4) (80) (Text)

Yeltsin 18 January Edict No. 64 Ordering Collection Of Excise Duties On Certain Goods Imported From Ukraine. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 96 p 5) (250) (Text)

State Duma 19 January Resolution No. 11-ii Listing Duma Deputy Chairs, Committee Chairs. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 4) (900) (Text)

Yeltsin 20 January Edict No. 67 On Cossack Administration. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 4) (200) (Text)

Yeltsin 20 January Edict No. 78 Recalling Armed Forces Reservists For Two-Month Training In 1996. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 4) (250) (Text)

SECTION III: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Government 4 December Decree No. 1207 On Program To Set Up Engineering Innovations Network. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 5) (250)

Government 26 December Directive No. 1758 On Collaboration With European Space Agency (ESA). (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 4) (400) (Text)

Government 13 January Decree No. 27 Approving Rules Governing Paid Medical Services. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 96 p 5) (100)

Regional Affairs

Russia: Radioactive Discharge in Ulyanovsk Region
LD0102065696 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0300 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a discharge of radioactive material in Ulyanovsk Region. The accident happened at the research institute of nuclear reactors. A tonne of the radioactive steam and gas mixture was discharged, contaminating the entire territory around the institute. According to the Russian Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disasters Ministry there were no casualties. The deactivation work will continue till tomorrow evening.

Russia: 'No Grounds for Concern' on Radioactive Leak*LD0102092996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0913 GMT 1 Feb 96**[By Petr Duyun]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ULYANOVSK February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — A reckless crane operator hit a box with safe-operation equipment of the nuclear reactor in the town of Dmitrovgrad on the Volga causing a radioactive steam outburst on Wednesday, which however posed no major danger for the environment.

Director of the nuclear research centre NIIR Valentin Ivanov told Tass on Thursday that the blow switched on the safety equipment which immediately shut the reactor down. As a result, nearly a tonne of steam containing manganese nuclides burst out into the atmosphere.

However, Ivanov said the semi-decay period for the nuclides is two and a half hours and that there were "no grounds for concern".

The director said the situation in his centre was normal by Thursday morning and all the staff were working according to schedule.

Nizhny Novgorod Governor To Work for Yeltsin Reelection*LD3101184396 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1758 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NIZHNIY NOVGOROD, Jan 31 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — Boris Yeltsin will run for re-election this June, Nizhny Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov told INTERFAX-Eurasia Wednesday.

He is "90 percent confident about that," he said.

According to Nemtsov, the electorate will support or reject Yeltsin depending on whether he ends the war in Chechnya before the elections.

Nemtsov said he will not support any candidate at the first stage of the elections, but will do his best to ensure Yeltsin's victory, if the second round sees "Yeltsin and not Yeltsin."

Russia: Novgorod Governor Campaigning for Chechen Pullout*LD3101174196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1715 GMT 31 Jan 96**[By Tamara Ivanova and Natalya Panshina]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Nizhny Novgorod region governor Boris Nemtsov said that he will collect dozens of millions

of signatures during February to support his call for a withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya.

Speaking at a press conference in Moscow on Wednesday, Nemtsov said that this will be an ample argument for Russian President Boris Yeltsin to respond to his call.

On Tuesday, Nemtsov presented Yeltsin with an appeal bearing about one million signatures he had collected in his region.

He believes that his initiative will receive nationwide support.

Nemtsov believes that the Chechen conflict can be resolved through negotiations with all forces involved accompanied by a gradual troop withdrawal.

He stressed that as long as federal forces remain in Chechnya, all separate rebel groups operating in Chechnya will act jointly against their "common enemy."

Khabarovsk Region Appeals to Yeltsin To Stop Chechen War*LD3101163596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1551 GMT 31 Jan 96**[By Boris Savelyev]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khabarovsk, January 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The Khabarovsk regional legislature on Wednesday addressed an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, government and parliament leadership to "immediately stop combat actions in Chechnya and impose a ban on the use of army units in the internal conflicts."

The regional Duma expressed solidarity with those regions of the Russian Federation which come out against senseless spending huge sums of money on the reconstruction of the Chechen economy until civil peace and accord were reached there.

A million signatures were gathered by Tuesday in Nizhny Novgorod under an appeal to stop the war in Chechnya.

Astrakhan Increases Vigilance Against Chechen Terrorism*MM0102113296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 31 Jan 96 p 2*

[Report by Sergey Kotov: "Better To Be Safe Than End up a Hostage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A sensational report appeared yesterday: MVD (Ministry of Internal affairs) and FSB [Federal Security Service] forces in the glorious Volga

city of Astrakhan were put in a state of enhanced combat readiness.

The circumstances which reportedly prompted the local leadership to mobilize the power structures are now frighteningly commonplace: Precautionary measures have been taken in the city in case the next gang of Chechen terrorists should turn up there. But the immediate reason for alarm was information reportedly received by the leadership of "Astrakhangazprom" — the largest enterprise in the oblast. According to information from confidential sources, a column of gunmen was allegedly moving toward the city — or rather toward a chemical enterprise 16 kilometers from Astrakhan — from Stavropol Kray.

It is well known that many such "alerts" turn out to be sheer disinformation aimed at attempting to divert the forces and attention of Russian power subunits. But Astrakhan is a special city in many respects.

First, one of Raduyev's captured gunmen stated, they had been told that buses and "Kamaz" trucks were at that moment heading not for Dagestan but for Astrakhan Oblast. Second, Astrakhan figures on a secret list of Chechen Muslim extremists' territorial claims: It has long been time, they say, for the green flag of the Prophet to have been raised over primordial Islamic territory, which was allegedly seized by Russian "enslavers." Astrakhan Oblast forces indeed have a solid Caucasian, particularly Chechen, community, among whom pro-Dudayev "disciples" have already been identified.

Incidentally, there is one conclusion you can draw from a conversation with Major General A. Volkodavyy, chief of the Astrakhan Oblast Internal Affairs Administration: There is no panic in the city, and any information relating to possible terrorist operations in Astrakhan is carefully checked. And special measures were taken in the oblast from the very beginning of the exacerbation of the situation in troubled neighboring regions.

If that is indeed the case, fine. Let us remind you that the alarm in Vidnyy near Moscow proved to be false. But sometimes it is better to be super-vigilant than a hostage.

Russia: Vorkuta Coals Miners Begin 'Indefinite' Strike

LD0102102096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0939 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Viktor Makarov, Valeriy Rudenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VORKUTA (Komi republic), February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — Coal miners from eleven coal mines and other coal enterprises of the Vorkuta

coal region have begun an indefinite strike today. Coal production and deliveries to consumers and other work have been suspended except vitally important deliveries to coal mines and enterprises. A number of other enterprises and organizations in Vorkuta have gone on strike in solidarity with the striking miners.

The strikers demand repayment of overdue wages and settlement of other social-economic problems, laying the emphasis on the development of the Pechora coal field.

Reports about another protest action staged by coal miners came from the Russian city of Tula. Around 20,000 miners from the "Tulaugol" association are taking part in an indefinite strike. The nationwide miners' strike was joined by all enterprises belonging to the "Mosbasshakhstroy" coal enterprise.

Russia: Railway Workers Not Supporting Miners' Strike

LD0102100996 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0730, our station broadcast a report that railway workers in Vorkuta were supporting the coal miners' strike. We have just received a report from Vorkuta that railway workers within the Railways Ministry system are working properly, on schedule. This report states that there is a fundamental difference between interdepartmental transport which transports cargoes within the confines of enterprises, and the vehicles, ships, and railways which transport cargo on external routes. It is also the case that the coal workers' union is not in any way related to the independent railway workers' union or the northern railways.

Orenburg Oblast Signs Power-Sharing Agreement With Moscow

MK0102091096 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 31 Jan 96 p 2

[Report by Olga Gorshunova, Sergey Mulin: "The Orenburg Governor Has Been Given His Freedom. Now the Oblast Has the Right To Close Legislative Gaps and Sue the Center for Money"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Orenburg Governor Vladimir Yelagin with colleagues from two other oblasts eventually signed agreements with the federal Center on the delimitation of jurisdiction as stipulated under Article 72 of the Russian Constitution.

The head of administration in Viktor Chernomyrdin's homeland devoted eighteen months out of the four and a half years in his current position to lobbying for this document in the Moscow corridors of power which have been proliferating in number. Although the

Russian premier was not in the capital, the signing ceremony took place and even ended "one hour ahead of schedule." At the same time, five specific agreements on economic sectors were concluded, and another 12 are pending.

Vladimir Yelagin, who held a news conference at the Central House of Journalists on 30 January, being a specialist on aircraft building, gave the following figurative description of the process of the delimitation of powers between the Center and the provinces: "Rigid-wing models shattered aircraft to pieces, and only the flexible wing did the trick."

The Orenburg governor called himself an associate of Eduard Rossel, who shares his views on the transformation of the Federation. From now on, Mr. Yelagin hopes to be crossing the border with the neighboring Bashkiria without the old-time awe: Owing to the fact that the autonomous republic was getting nearly twice as much financial support from the budget as his oblast, he "wanted sovereignty there and then." Although Orenburg Oblast will still remain a donor region for some time, from now on it will have the right to withhold from the federal budget sums equivalent to unfulfilled obligations by the Center under sectoral agreements. The oblast may also recover, through arbitration, the funds remitted to the national treasury under laws that lack financial backing.

Orenburg Oblast may adopt any local law closing gaps in Russian legislation to stay in force pending the adoption of a corresponding federal law. This practice, according to Mr. Yelagin, has already helped contain the spread of an anthrax epidemic brought to the region from Kazakhstan. Every year, 15,000 legal and as many illegal migrants arrive in the oblast from southern republics, and this process also needs regional regulation before appropriate legislation is adopted at the federal level.

Orenburg Oblast has received broad powers in the sphere of foreign economic relations. In particular, any disagreements with neighboring Kazakhstan can be resolved at the level of the oblast administration. The opinion of the oblast leadership on matters relating to the defense industry will also have a greater weight. From now on, all decisions "from above" concerning defense conversion and other related matters are to be coordinated with the oblast authorities.

Furthermore, Yelagin said, Orenburg Oblast residents value their fellow countryman Viktor Chernomyrdin and believe that he can become the country's president. Some labor collectives have already "shown respective initiative." Will Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin] agree? The governor asked his high-level fellow coun-

tryman about this during his audience. Not wishing to make public Viktor Chernomyrdin's response, Vladimir Yelagin only said that the prime minister is not a "turncoat" (and this, above all, is why he is valued): He respects the president and supports him.

Moscow City Duma on Transfer of Land Plots to Investors

LD0102004396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1629 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yelena Kornysheva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — A truly revolutionary decision "On the transfer of plots of land to the ownership of investors on completion of construction and modernization projects in the territory of the city of Moscow" was adopted in its second reading today at a sitting of the Moscow city Duma. After the insertion of amendments, it clearly specifies the procedure for alienating land plots, where various town facilities are situated, to the ownership of organizations and private individuals who have undertaken and carried out construction work or the modernization of given installations.

The investors — the future owners — will be determined in line with an open city contest extensively involving the mass media. The list of specific facilities included on the list of such investment contracts is due to be approved by the Moscow city Duma on a submission from the Moscow mayor. It has been decided that the legal normative documents guaranteeing the rights of citizens and the city are to be drawn up before 1 January 1997.

A further document proclaiming the general principles of Moscow land legislation — "The concept of city policy in the field of real estate" — was also adopted as a basis today. It recognizes the right of private ownership of land, but enshrines the prevailing right of owners, who have been residing on a given plot for many years and also explains the main guidelines for implementing this policy. The bill's second reading has been postponed till 1 April.

Russia: N. Ossetia Condemns Bomb Attack in Vladikavkaz

LD3101145996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — The parliament and government of North Ossetia in southern Russia in a joint statement on Wednesday condemned a bomb attack on the only

working mosque in the capital Vladikavkaz late on Tuesday, calling it "an atrocious act of vandalism."

The statement blames the attack on unspecified forces seeking to unsettle the situation in the republic. It says "the organizers of this criminal act are opposed to ethnic peace and harmony in North Ossetia."

Assurances are given that the culprits will be tracked down and punished.

Although no one was hurt, the blast caused a large hole in one of the walls of the mosque, situated 100 meters away from Vladikavkaz Hotel on the bank of the Terek river. Cracks appeared in the mosque's towers, with its interior also damaged.

The North Ossetian government has ordered law enforcement bodies to take emergency measures to speed up investigations both into the latest attack and a recent attempt to blow up a monument in the central part of the city, a symbol of friendship between the Russians and Ossetians.

A joint investigation team was set up including members of the federal security service, prosecutor's office and interior ministry of North Ossetia.

Yeltsin's National Security Adviser Tours Siberia, Far East

LD3101152196 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHITA, Jan 31 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — Russian presidential adviser on national security Yuriy Baturin's trip through regions of Siberia and the Russian Far East will be devoted to inspection of power structures.

Baturin arrived in Chita on Tuesday evening, having visited Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy and the Primorye territory.

Leaving Kamchatka, Baturin gave a statement to local journalists saying that his aim is "to assess the economic security of our borders and of our citizens from terrorist acts and to foresee measures to oppose possible threats."

Baturin had a conversation with the command of the Transbaykal military district in Chita Wednesday.

Economic Issues

Russia: Livshits: Miners' 1995 Arrears 'Paid in Full'

LD0102111796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0935 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — The miners' 1995 wage arrears "have been paid in full," an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today by Aleksandr Livshits, the RF [Russian Federation] president's aide for economic matters.

"As promised at last week's meeting with the miners' trade union leaders, on 31 January the Russian Finance Ministry transferred the last part of the funds, amounting to 600 billion rubles [R], for paying the 1995 wage arrears," he said. "Thus, the first item in the instruction that Boris Yeltsin gave [Viktor] Chernomyrdin has been carried out in full."

As for the second item in the instruction — confirming a monthly schedule for paying miners' wages in 1996 — talks on this issue are now in progress. Aleksandr Livshits thinks that the Russian government may speed them up and sign the schedule, thus carrying out the second item in the president's instruction.

The third item concerned the money owed to the Primorskugol joint-stock company. Aleksandr Livshits said that R160 billion have been allocated to it for that purpose. The Primorskugol staff have sent the RF [Russian Federation] president a telegram expressing their gratitude for his support.

Russia: Miners Begin Nationwide Strike 1 Feb

LD0102061896 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy
in Russian 0300 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Miners began a nationwide strike today, demanding that their wages be paid. According to the Rosugleprop, all 18 coal regions of the country are prepared to participate in the action. All work has been stopped at the mines of Sakhalin and Enti up to the present time.

Russia: Mining Regions Respond to Strike Call

LD0102064296

[FBIS Report] Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 0345 GMT on 1 February, in a Kemerovo-datelined report, notes that a spokesman for the Kuznetsugol concern has said that miners from Russia's major coal mining concern for underground mining have expressed their full support for the fair demands of their

colleagues in other regions but will participate in the strike selectively. Mines that supply fuel to metallurgical combines, power plants and boilers will not stop production. The country's most powerful mine Rospadskaya in Mezhdurechensk, which belongs to Rosugol, will not stop production, ITAR-TASS quotes the company's experts as saying.

At 0355 GMT on 1 February, ITAR-TASS in Russian reports that miners from major open pits in Krasnoyarsk Territory today sent coal to consumers. In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Krasnoyarskugol's Director Viktor Ouskov said that miners expressed their support for the strike during the brief rallies ahead of their work shifts but refused to participate in the strike itself since steps are being taken to solve the problem of wage arrears.

At 0357 GMT on 1 February ITAR-TASS in Russian, in a dispatch from Abakan, reports that four collieries in Khakasia have stopped work, having expressed their support for Russia's coalminers demand for the payment of back wages. In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Sergey Ivashkevich, a spokesman for the regional trade union, said that miners will not mine or send coal to consumers.

At 0500 GMT on 1 February, in a report from Vladivostok, ITAR-TASS in Russian states: "All Maritime mines and open pits stopped sending coal to their consumers today. The Maritime miners have joined the strike." The agency adds: "Petr Kiryasov, chairman of the Maritime territorial committee of coal miners, has told ITAR-TASS that the Maritime miners will be on strike on 1 and 2 January. The trade unions of a number of local mines are prepared to announce an indefinite strike and stop not only coal supplies but also its extraction, unless they receive 160 billion rubles or part of the sum, in accordance with the Russian president's special instruction for granting this sum to meet the needs of the Maritime miners."

Moscow Mayak Radio in Russian at 0400 GMT on 1 February notes: "A nationwide miners' strike is being held today at the initiative of the [Russian] Trade Union of Coal Workers [TUCW]. The day before readiness to participate in it was expressed by miners in 18 coal mining regions. According to ITAR-TASS, [word indistinct] five mines and two mining enriching combines began the indefinite strike today. Miners at all Buryat plants are also on strike. Their strike will last two days. Despite their support for the demands of Russia's miners work collectives from collieries in Krasnoyarsk Territory have not stopped their work."

Russia: Further on Response To Miners' Strike

LD0102081196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0801 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 1 (ITAR-TASS) — A nationwide strike of Russian coal miners is being held today on the initiative of the Trade Union of Coal Miners. Trade union committees of all the 18 coal mining areas of Russia reaffirmed their readiness to take part in it.

Coal miners are demanding the improvement of payment transactions with the state and the granting of a preferential taxation regime, which will make it possible to increase deductions for the payment of wages (the wage debt has reached one trillion roubles).

Miners at all the coal mines of Buryatia have already joined the strike. They stopped coal production and are shipping coal only for the key energy-generation facilities and for export deliveries.

Coal production has also been stopped at 49 mines and open-cast colliers of the Kuzbass coal basin, which makes half of the coal mining enterprises of one of the largest coal mining regions of Russia, ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin reports.

Labour collectives of all the coal mines, two ore-dressing factories and other coal industry enterprises of the city of Inta, the Komi Republic, began a strike today for an indefinite period of time. They stopped coal production and its shipment to consumers, with the exception of the heat and electricity producing plant and boiler rooms of that city, situated close to the Polar Circle. The driving of workings was also stopped. Workers of the Inta communal services and some other enterprises supported the coal miners.

Work has been stopped at four coal mining enterprises of Khakassia, including coal production and shipment. Only those workers, on whom life support of the mines and open-cast colliers depends, remain at their working places.

Work has been discontinued at the working sections of all the mines, coal-processing factories, transport enterprises and management offices of coal mining enterprises of the Don region. Workers of the East Donbass coal basin declared a strike for an indefinite period of time and stopped the shipment of coal to all consumers, ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bondarenko reports.

Miners of the Kuznetskugol concern, one of the biggest coal mining enterprises of the country, are supporting

the demands of Russian coal miners, but not all their mines have joined the strike.

Labour collectives of open-cast colliers of the Krasnoyarsk Region have not stopped work, but they are supporting the demands of Russian coal miners.

Coal mining enterprises of the Chita Region are not taking part in the strike. Their labour collectives decided not to join the nationwide protest action because of a difficult situation with providing fuel for the consumers, Nikolay Kononenko, head of the Trade Union Federation of the Chita Region, told TASS.

Yeltsin Urged to Set Out Pragmatic Economic Policy

MM3101155796 Moscow *FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA* in Russian 23 Jan 96 p 1

[Article by Yevgeniy Vasilchuk: "Yeltsin Resorting to Emergency Measures in Economy" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] The tense and tragic start to 1996 in politics is not yet being accompanied by any noticeable deterioration in the economic situation. According to preliminary estimates, the inflation rate in January will be no higher than the 3.2 percent in December last year. The government's own forecast for January had been more pessimistic — for 5-percent consumer price growth.

The financial markets also reacted quite sluggishly to Anatoliy Chubays' resignation. It was only nervous foreign investors who somewhat agitated the Russian stockmarket. For the first time in the past few years the political instability in Russia, the top-level reshuffles, and the more than transparent official hints about a change of priorities in economic policy failed to prompt corresponding fluctuations on the world's currency and financial markets.

International financial organizations, the EU, and leading Western governments were quite easy-going, if unenthusiastic, about possible economic policy amendments. It was only Washington that, by tradition, could not refrain from some edifyingly threatening maxims. The West is now simply awaiting the results of the June 1996 presidential election.

Only with the best will in the world could one discern in the government's actions signs that conclusions had been drawn from the December elections. Yeltsin is more resolute. This is shown by his new series of economic edicts which are to all intents and purposes introducing elements of emergency economic provisions into the country.

Emergency measures, particularly in the economy, should be treated with caution. Unfortunately, concerned about unraveling some political contradictions, the president and the government are not hinting even a month after the elections that they have found common ground in elaborating and implementing a single economic strategy, and in creating an effective mechanism for state economic regulation. There has been no mention of this in the president's edicts or in the speeches by the head of the cabinet. There is still no understanding of the need to develop such a system.

At the same time, the opposition is confidently and methodically grasping the key levers in the legislature. There will then be a radical intensification of the opposition parliament's control over the authorities' actions, and in the imposition on the government of popular but unprofessional decisions in the sphere of economic regulation.

This is really dangerous. Hardly anyone would dispute the opposition's organizational potential and its ability to achieve advantageous decisions. If the president fails to seize the initiative in setting out a pragmatic economic policy, the differences between the executive and the legislative authorities could finally disorganize the running of the economy. All the more so as the government's economic policy and the opposition parliament's aspirations are obviously at odds with each other.

Russian Foreign Exchange Still Flat Despite Political Events

MM3101142896 Moscow *FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA* in Russian 23 Jan 96 p 1

["Foreign Exchange Review" by Igor Doronin — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems as though the events of last week's political life passed the foreign exchanges by. The slight rise in the dollar seen since the start of the year persisted last week. Over the five days it rose by 0.3 percent despite very little activity by the commercial banks. The number of players on the foreign exchanges fell to a record low level.

A similar situation — a slow rise in the dollar — is also to be seen on the over-the-counter foreign exchange market. We can assume that the Central Bank has been the main market maker in the two segments of the foreign exchange market, maintaining liquidity and ensuring a small rise in the dollar rate. It seems as though, thanks to the continuing rise in the dollar, some activity is being maintained on the foreign exchanges, albeit at a low level. At the same time, it is quite

obvious that the banks' interests have firmly given way to operations with state securities, which are far more profitable than foreign exchange operations.

The level of activity in the dollar market was also reflected in trading in other currencies quoted on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. There has been a decline in turnover in virtually all convertible currencies, accompanied by significant fluctuations in exchange rates. Thus, the German mark was down 1.9 percent on the week, the French franc was up 5.1 percent, and sterling was down 1.4 percent.

Russia: Commercial Banks May Now Exchange Old Dollar Bills

LD3101143896 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Central Bank has authorized commercial banks to exchange old dollar bills for new ones for a commission, head of the Central Bank's Currency Regulation Department Viktor Melnikov told a press conference in Moscow Wednesday.

He said the Central Bank Chairman Sergey Dubinin signed a supplement to Instruction No. 27 Wednesday which says that the authorized commercial banks shall have the right to exchange foreign bills of one nominal value to other foreign bills with the same nominal value for a commission in rubles or hard currency. The size of the commission shall be fixed by the authorized banks.

The document also says that citizens shall have the right to complain about services extended to them by exchange offices. A form with exchange offices' requisites shall be available at all exchange offices.

All of the Central Bank's territorial subsidiaries shall have a telephone service to handle the citizens' complaints. Melnikov said that if necessary experts of the territorial subsidiaries will check on the exchange offices in question.

He said that the document introduces additional sanctions against the banks violating the established rules.

Russia: Zaveryukha's 'Despair' at Agriculture Policy Viewed

MM3001165696 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 27 Jan 96 p 1

[Commentary by Mikhail Sharov under the "Emergency Situation" rubric: "The Russian Countryside: The Last Stand"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The statement [on the state of Russian agriculture carried by IN-

TERFAX 24 January] by A. Zaveryukha, a competent professional, is bound to cause alarm. For almost three years now, Zaveryukha, as the deputy prime minister in charge of Russia's agrarian sector, has often harmed his own position by his tough and consistent defense of rural commodity producers' interests and the vital activity of the agro-industrial complex. Many people are familiar with this man's composure, firmness, and restraint and his even-handedness when resolving the most complex questions. Then suddenly we get this statement with its harsh language, extremely stark style, and shocking tone.

Last year which, among other things, proved to be extremely unsuccessful for country people, as we know, summed up the results of the so-called reforms. What did they bring the Russian countryside?

Let us look at the statistics. In the past five years gross agricultural production fell 35 percent compared with the average annual indicators for 1986-1990. At the same time the gross grain yield fell by 38 percent, sugar beet yield fell by 40 percent, and sunflower seed yield was down 31 percent. Livestock raising suffered the most perceptible damage — meat production fell 41 percent and milk and dairy production fell 46 percent.

The reasons for this appalling devastation in the countryside, as, furthermore, in other sectors of the economy, are well known. It is due to the current authorities' deliberate tactics and strategy aimed at destroying the entire national economic complex. Admittedly on the specious pretext of implementing the reforms or, as the present rulers put it, restructuring the economy. The results of these "reforms" are also well known: The ever-widening disparity in prices for agricultural and industrial output and energy sources, crippling taxes, huge arrears....

In these — to be blunt — unnatural conditions rural commodity producers have been forced to curtail production. Millions of hectares of plowland remain unsown. Crop yield has fallen drastically. Cattle numbers have fallen by 24 percent, hog numbers are down 35 percent, and sheep and goats are down 38 percent. Livestock numbers did not decline like this even in the disastrous postwar years.

Today almost every Russian citizen apart from the "new Russians" has already felt very perceptibly the effect of the economic reforms on his stomach and his wallet. Suffice it to say that per capita food consumption has fallen by almost 1,000 kilocalories or one-third. In terms of the level of consumption the country has fallen from fifth or sixth place in the world to 40th. As for food prices, the following statistics are relevant here. The representative range of 19 staple products per person

in January 1993 cost 5,400 rubles [R] whereas by December last year it was over R230,000.

Specialists who take a realistic and sober view of the situation in the agrarian sector are convinced that the degradation of production and the impoverishment of the countryside will increase remorselessly in the near future because the countryside has reached crisis point. Let us mention the most significant reasons. Agricultural machine building is virtually at a standstill. The production of tractors, soil cultivators, sowing units, and feed harvesting equipment has ground to a halt. The machine pool in the countryside is disastrously depleted and soon the peasant will no longer have the means to cultivate the land. The use of fertilizers has fallen dramatically — as a rule mineral fertilizers go for export. At the same time agricultural producers have neither the means nor the resources to treat the soil with organic fertilizers, so plowland fertility is rapidly diminishing. The result is that grain crop yield fell to 12.7 quintals [per hectare] and sugar beet fell to 176 quintals in 1995. Let us recall that in 1990 those indicators were 18.5 quintals and 221 quintals respectively.

The agrarian sector is essentially in ruins now. Russians must know that through the malevolence of the current authorities they could find themselves on the brink of semi-starvation very soon. These are no mere words. Now, on the eve of the field work season, rural commodity producers do not have even the minimum financial and material resources for this vital campaign. Indeed, there is no minimum to speak of! For many months a considerable number of farms have been unable to pay wages. Funds for operating costs are obtained in the most primitive way: Even cows with calf are being slaughtered and the meat is being sold on city squares to make some money to meet the most urgent needs. Hardly any equipment is being repaired right now and

quite a few farms are suffering an acute seed shortage. The lack of fuels and lubricants is a particular headache for rural producers. It is not hard to guess where all this might end. A. Zaveryukha is absolutely right — the situation in the countryside is extremely critical and could have the most unforeseen and irreparable consequences for Russia and the Russians.

Meanwhile, it cannot be ignored that a draft fundamental document which outlines measures for the economic stabilization of the agrarian complex in 1996 has been passed from one office to another in the upper corridors of power for two months now. The inevitable conclusion is that someone stands to gain from and needs this delay. Of course there will be no starvation in Russia — our foreign "benefactors" will not allow that to happen. Their tactics are clear and obvious — they want to capture the Russian food market once and for all and drive our commodity producers out of it. At any price and by the most treacherous means! It is no coincidence that last year the main import items from the United States were meat and meat products. Furthermore, the crisis in agriculture is due not just to the financial constraints and the difficult position of the peasantry. The recent hasty departure of Agriculture and Food Minister A. Nazarchuk for no apparent reason is also a move toward the destruction of the agro-industrial complex. The fact is that the sector was left without a leader at a most vital moment.

But let us return to the final part of A. Zaveryukha's statement. It is a challenge issued by a state figure to a power in which he has become an "outsider." It is a gesture of despair and a transparent hint that the deputy premier is prepared to follow A. Nazarchuk's departure and resign. As a mark of protest against the asphyxiating policy that has been pursued against our own breadwinners and people for the past four years.

International Affairs**Russian Foreign Minister Primakov Arrives in Ukraine***LD3101163696 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first official visit to Ukraine by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov began on 31 January. He was met at Zhulyany airport by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko; Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia Volodymyr Fedorov; Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Leonid Smolyakov; and other officials. After the arrival ceremony Yevgeniy Primakov made a brief statement for the mass media. [passage omitted]

Primakov Statement on Arrival in Kiev*LD3101171496 Kiev UNIAIR in Ukrainian 1610 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov has begun his visit to Ukraine.

In a short statement to the press he stressed: "I am grateful for the invitation to visit Ukraine which I received from Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko. We will talk about our bilateral mutual relations and international problems that are of concern to our states. We have a good basis for this. Agreements on these matters were reached between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma during their meeting in Moscow on 16 January. Previous agreements have been reached at other levels. We hope that these talks will be successful."

Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said: "These talks are only the beginning of the dialogue initiated by our presidents. This is the first meeting with Yevgeniy Primakov in his capacity as foreign minister. We should do everything so that relations between our states are at a high level and correspond to our national interests. The aim of the visit is to resolve jointly those problems that exist between our countries."

Udovenko Upbeat on Yeltsin's Planned Visit*LD3101181596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1733 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[By Mikhail Melnik and Raisa Stetsura]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] KIEV, Jan 31 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov today arrived for a two-day visit to Kiev at the invitation of his Ukrainian counterpart Gennadiy Udovenko. [passage omitted]

Udovenko stressed that the talks with Primakov in Kiev were expected to stimulate a "mutual search for ways

of resolving the pressing problems that exist between Ukraine and Russia."

Asked if Ukraine was going to insist on President Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine in the second half of March, Udovenko replied that "the coming visit should not be turned into a fetish. We want a large-scale accord to be signed in the interests of both Ukraine and Russia, and Ukraine really wants this visit not to be postponed or drawn out."

The minister said all necessary conditions were there already. The problem of the Black Sea Fleet was nearing resolution as both sides were fully sticking to the timetable for the division of the fleet signed by the defence ministers of the two countries in Sochi.

"In any case Ukraine will meet Boris Yeltsin's condition," Udovenko said.

Officially Kiev expects Primakov's visit to further strengthen mutual understanding and carry on the political dialogue that began between Primakov and Udovenko in Moscow on January 16.

The Ukrainian foreign ministry sources told Tass the parties must "determine their positions on Ukrainian-Russian problems and decide on more resolute concerted actions."

Primakov and Udovenko were due to hold "one-on-one" talks on Wednesday evening.

Primakov, Udovenko Hold News Conference*WS0102083596 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0103 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[By Viktoria Kulakova, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Jan. 31 — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov, arriving in Kiev from Minsk (Belarus) on Wednesday, promised that his country would push for ratification of the SALT II treaty in the wake of its approval by the United States Senate.

Primakov lauded the Senate for ratifying the treaty without amendment and United States President Bill Clinton for imposing a veto on allocation of funds for development of strategic arms.

"Our position remains the same," he said. "We are for ratification and will strive for it."

Commenting on Ukrainian-Russian relations, Primakov asked journalists not to connect certain people's opinions with Russia's policy, in particular, concerning cancellation of Belovezhskiy Treaty — which recognized Ukrainian independence and the breakup of the Soviet

Union — and the status of Sevastopol, home base to the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet.

"We are not asking why a part of Ukrainian delegation voted against Russia's admittance to the Council of Europe, are we?" he said. "As we clearly understand that, it is neither the president's nor the government's point of view."

Primakov said that Ukraine and Russia "have a good basis for negotiations," citing preliminary accords concluded between Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Jan. 16 in Moscow.

Speaking at a Boryspil Airport press conference, Primakov told journalists that he does not regard his talks in Kiev as "negotiations," calling the term "too official" and saying he prefers to refer to his visit as "a dialogue between two sovereign and good-neighborly countries."

At the same time, despite the opinion of Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko that signing a comprehensive political agreement between Ukraine and Russia "seems to me to have little to do with the Black sea Fleet problem," Russia's Foreign Minister urged that "the BSF problem should be solved before Yeltsin's visit to Kiev."

Primakov said he pegged his hope for a resolution of issues surrounding the division of the former Soviet fleet on regular meetings between the two countries' presidents, which "take place and inspire hopes that the BSF problems will be solved before the Kiev meeting."

Speaking about Russia's attitude toward NATO expansion, Primakov said that while his country "is against this process, it does not mean that it will insist upon the right to veto" new alliance members.

Udovenko, for his part, said that the Russian position on NATO expansion has much in common with Ukraine's, though "not everything."

Ukraine, "and this was more than once declared by our president, insists on an evolutionary process, because Ukraine is not willing to be a buffer between NATO members and Tashkent bloc participants," he said.

Speaking about a cessation of the war in Chechnya, Primakov announced that the Ukrainian party did not make this a necessary condition for the Russian delegation's visit, but nevertheless "we long for it, though cannot promise it will come to an end before March."

Ukraine: Primakov Opposes NATO Expansion

LD3101222696 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian
1920 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and Russian Federation Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov met representatives of the mass media. Replying to questions from journalists, Primakov said in particular, that the ratification of START II was beneficial to Russia. "It was very good that U.S. President Bill Clinton vetoed additional spending from the budget for the development of strategic nuclear weapons," he said. Primakov considered that he had done the right thing. He noted that Russia's stance on the question of the ratification of START II was positive, in particular, the government would attempt in every way to have this document ratified by the State Duma.

There was also a question about whether the Black Sea Fleet problem would be resolved before the signing of a treaty or whether it would finally be resolved after it is signed. Speaking about this, Primakov noted that the talks on the Black Sea Fleet problems were continuing, that Russia's stance remained unchanged and that all the issues connected with the Black Sea Fleet had to be resolved before Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine. Russia's stance would have been different if there had been little progress on the Black Sea Fleet, but since there is progress on the question of the Black Sea Fleet and at the same time on the general political treaty then we will have to resolve the Black Sea Fleet before Yeltsin arrives, Primakov noted. According to him, there were grounds to consider that this issue would be resolved before Yeltsin's visit.

Replying to a question whether the issue of determining the parts and the status of the Russian part of the Black Sea Fleet, which is based in Ukraine, had been discussed with members of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry during today's visit, Primakov said that if this had been the case then as a diplomat he would not have said anything because the talks were still in progress. According to Primakov, Ukraine and Russia should build partnership on an equal basis and on this basis they should decide all the problems. The priority of Russia's foreign policy is on the CIS countries but with Ukraine these relations assume particular significance.

Speaking about the expansion of NATO, Udovenko noted that Ukraine's stance coincided with Russia's. This process should take place in a legitimate manner and should also take account of our countries' interests. Primakov said categorically that Russia was against the expansion of NATO, although naturally it did not have the power of veto on these processes. NATO's

expansions to the east will cause the situation to worsen, he said.

Primakov: Sevastopol Will Not Be Discussed

LD3101234296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2130 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 1 Feb — "The issue of Sevastopol's status is not on the agenda for discussion during the Ukrainian-Russian talks and the decision by the previous State Duma on resubordinating it to the Russian Federation should not be regarded as the view of the Russian leadership," Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov stated at a briefing on Wednesday. He had arrived in Kiev on the afternoon of 31 January on an official two-day visit.

According to Primakov, the main problem remains the division of the Black Sea Fleet. Moreover, Yevgeniy Primakov answered a question with a question, saying: "Why did some of the Ukrainian delegation in Strasbourg vote against Russia's admission to the Council of Europe?" "But I do not regard this as the viewpoint of the whole Ukrainian Parliament and people of Ukraine," the Russian minister said.

Ukraine: Payments for Sevastopol To Be Discussed

WS0102091096 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0740 GMT 1 Feb 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the information department in Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yuriy Serheyev, told INFOBANK that during an official visit to Kiev by Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Yevgeniy Primakov which began January 31, drafts of several bilateral documents will be discussed. These concern questions of citizenship, national minorities, national boundaries, the Black Sea Fleet, and preparations for a Ukrainian-Russian treaty on friendship and cooperation.

One day earlier, on January 30, Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadiy Udovenko, during a meeting with members of the Ukrainian parliamentary group "Derzhavnist" ("Statehood"), said that during talks with Mr. Primakov he will insist that an exact date be set from which Russia will begin paying Ukraine for land leased in Sevastopol where Russian military units are located. Mr. Serheyev said that he doubts that during these talks an exact date will be set for an official visit to be paid by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Kiev.

Primakov Reassures Ukraine Over Duma Statements

LD0102104296 Kiev UNIAIR in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Replying to questions from journalists, Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Yevgeniy Primakov noted that the help Russia receives from the West is still very small. He said that there are no plans to discuss the issue of the Russian Duma's denunciation of the Belovezhskaya agreement. Yevgeniy Primakov also called on Ukrainian society to have a fairly calm attitude to statements concerning Russian-Ukrainian relations which have recently been heard in the Duma. The foreign minister noted that the opinion of a Russian State Duma deputy does not constitute the state's position on Russian-Ukrainian relations.

In the opinion of Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, the problem of transporting Russian oil and gas across Ukrainian territory does not have any political connotations. He noted that above all, funds should be found to modernize the oil and gas pipelines, and then Russia would be able to transport much more raw material to the West, and then both Ukrainian and Russia would profit much more from this than is currently the case.

Ukraine: Primakov on Economic Convergence

LD0102111096 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as received] — Stability not only in Europe, but also beyond it, depends on the development of Russia's relations with Ukraine as an independent state, said Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov at a meeting with Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz on 1 February. He emphasized that "relations in the post-Soviet space" were the determining factor of this stability. Primakov stressed that "convergence of the former USSR states' economies at the same time as the inevitability of the processes of their sovereignization" was a priority in Russian foreign policy. He emphasized that relations with Ukraine are and will remain a priority for Russia.

Moroz stressed the significance of the fact that one of Primakov's first visits as minister is to Ukraine. He recalled that parliament had confirmed the priority of relations with Russia in the context of foreign economic policy back in 1993. Moroz voiced the hope that the Ukrainian Supreme Council and the Russian State Duma would get active contacts going in the near future, and that the Russian Parliament would form its part of the interparliamentary Ukrainian-Russian commission.

Primakov, Moroz Discuss NATO, Chernobyl

LD0102115396 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1030 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev. — At his meeting with Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Yevgeniy Primakov, Ukrainian Supreme Council [parliament] Chairman Oleksandr Moroz spoke in favor of holding an international conference in Kiev on the problems of the structure and future security in Europe and the world. The parliament chairman told journalists this after his meeting with the foreign minister. A UNIAN correspondent reports that the parliament chairman emphasized that the need for such a conference arises in connection with the intention of a number of countries to join NATO.

He said that both Ukraine and Russia are concerned about the issues of security and an increase in NATO's influence. According to Oleksandr Moroz, Ukraine has an attitude of respect toward states' intentions to join the alliance, but believes that they should take Ukraine's interests into account. Oleksandr Moroz said that Yevgeniy Primakov agreed with the expediency of holding such a conference and that the institutions of the Council of Europe, the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, as well as the parliaments and governments of countries interested in this problem, should find "a security model that would suit everyone." He emphasized that the creation of such a model should occupy one of the key roles in Ukrainian-Russian relations. He also expressed the hope that this idea would find a response in the countries of Europe.

Oleksandr Moroz said that Yevgeniy Primakov agreed with the Ukrainian parliament's proposal that Ukraine should take part in the G7 meeting with Russia, which is to take place in Moscow, as a fully-fledged participant. The meeting is to discuss inter alia the problems of closing the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Oleksandr Moroz believes that Ukraine should take part in this meeting in order to demonstrate the need for world participation in resolving the problem of closing the station. According to him, Yevgeniy Primakov supported this proposal.

PRC Embassy Dismisses Ukraine Espionage Charges

LD3101152896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1426 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By Mikhail Melnik and Raisa Stetsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, January 31 (Itar-Tass) — Three Chinese citizens and a group of personnel

of the "Yuzhmash" defence enterprise were caught red-handed by agents of the Dnepropetrovsk regional security service on January 29.

The Chinese "spies" and their Ukrainian "accomplices" were arrested when the Chinese were handed over documents pertaining to the development of booster engines for intercontinental missiles designed by the "Yuzhmash" design bureau.

Reports about the incident were published by several Ukrainian newspapers today with reference to information allegedly provided by chief of the Dnepropetrovsk department of the Ukrainian Security Service Vladimir Slobodenyuk.

The three Chinese have been expelled from Ukraine, and criminal proceedings were instituted against their Dnepropetrovsk "accomplices."

Officials from the Ukrainian Security Service told Itar-Tass on Wednesday that some facts mentioned by the press do not conform to reality. Spokesman for the Ukrainian Security Service Anatoliy Sakhno said that an investigation to clarify the circumstances of the case was underway to establish if it was really "a spy case." "In short, any comments on this case are now allowed yet," Sakhno said.

Officials from the Chinese Embassy in Ukraine told Itar-Tass that the three Chinese citizens suspected of spying are energy experts who had arrived in Ukraine to exchange experience and make commercial deals. The embassy officials dismissed as a lie the charges of espionage brought against the Chinese citizens. They were invited by the Ukrainian side and worked in accordance with the suggested schedule, the embassy officials said, declaring that the Chinese citizens had not done anything in Ukraine in violation of the law.

The embassy denied that its personnel was involved in the case and declined to comment on the activities of the Ukrainian Security Service.

OSCE Expected To Support CIS Funding for Tatars' Return

AU3101120896 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian 27 Jan 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Tatars Should Not Remain Migrants Forever"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Max van der Stoep, OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] high commissioner for affairs of ethnic minorities, arrives in Ukraine so often that his visits have now become matter of fact. The meetings at Ukraine's Supreme Council have become no less customary. This

time, Oleksandr Tkachenko, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, and Van der Stoel met to discuss the situation that has taken shape in the Crimean Autonomous Republic.

"The recent development of events," pointed out Oleksandr Tkachenko, "testifies to an improvement of relations between the Ukrainian leadership and parliament, on the one hand, and the Crimean Cabinet of Ministers, on the other." At the beginning of February, the Supreme Council will consider the mechanism for adopting the Crimean Constitution, something that was agreed upon on 10 January by Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz and chairman of the Crimean Parliament Yevhen Suprunyuk.

"Ukraine welcomes the OSCE activity, aimed at promoting Constitutional stabilization in the Crimea. That is why we have supported the extension of the OSCE mandate in Ukraine until 30 June 1996," said Oleksandr Tkachenko.

"Ukraine also hopes that the OSCE will endorse ratification of corresponding documents by parliaments of those CIS states from which deported Crimean Tatars return to Ukraine. Whereas during the deportation, 74,000 Crimean Tatars were expatriated, today, 300,000 of them have returned to the Crimea. Such a burden should not fall on Ukraine's economy alone," believes Oleksandr Tkachenko.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Warning on Dangers of Communist Referendum

LD3101213996 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Communist Party's attempts to begin the collection of signatures in support of a general Ukrainian referendum on the restoration of the former Union and changing Ukraine's state symbols have elicited mixed views in our society, says a press report from the Ukrainian presidential press service. Protests against this illegal act by many community groups, democratic parties and movements warn that the initiators of this act aim to destabilize the situation in Ukraine in order to achieve their narrow party interests. The presidium of the national confederation of trade unions proposes another way of resolving this problem. It has put forward the idea of holding a conference of leaders of trade union associations in February which would begin discussing with trade union members and all citizens the main principles of the new draft Ukrainian constitution.

Kuchma Asks Marchuk To Settle Miners' Wage Arrears

LD3101181296 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1610 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met deputies from Lugansk and Donetsk regions, UNIAR learned from Anatoliy Khunov, a people's deputy from Donetsk. Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk was at the meeting.

The head of state instructed the prime minister to immediately settle the miners' wage arrears, agreeing in principle that the coal mining industry should be subsidized.

It is expected that this evening Prime Minister Marchuk will speak about this meeting on Ukrainian television and will call on the miners not to begin their strike on 1 February.

Speaker Moroz Supports Picketing Teachers

LD3101163196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — On 31 January, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz met representatives of Ukraine's educational and scientific establishments, who have been picketing the parliament building today, demanding the timely payment of wages and state support for the sector.

A UNIAN correspondent reports that Oleksandr Moroz and Supreme Council presidium members Mykola Azarov, Yuriy Buzduhan, and Ivan Chyzyh have fully supported the teachers' demands. The parliament chairman said that the critical situation in the sector has emerged as a result of the lack of controls over the use of state budgetary funds, as well as the government's "feebleness" in influencing the social situation in Ukraine. According to Oleksandr Moroz, the Supreme Council will establish strict controls over the distribution of state funds. He emphasized that parliament is doing everything possible at the legislative level to support the education workers.

A plan of further actions by the teachers is going to be worked out at today's All-Ukrainian Teachers Conference, which began at 1400.

Minister Rejects Idea of Nuclear Thefts in Ukraine

LD3101152396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1301 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Jan 31 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Results of the checks carried out by law enforcement bodies at Ukraine's nuclear power plants

testify to the fact that there cannot be thefts of nuclear materials from the plants, Ukrainian Interior Minister Yuriy Kravchenko told a briefing in Kiev Wednesday.

He expressed satisfaction with the state of protection measures at the plants and underlined that Ukraine's nuclear sites "receive increased attention from the country's government and president."

Not a single case of theft of nuclear materials or their transit has been registered over the years of Ukrainian independence, Kravchenko said.

Interpol President Bjourn Erickson, who attended the briefing, reported that the problem of nuclear materials and drugs transit through Ukraine was discussed during his visit to Kiev concluded on Wednesday. Any transit inevitably leads to the appearance of "a consumption market" on the transit territory, Erickson said.

Economic Issues

Kuchma 24 Jan Privatization Session Speech

WS3101134096 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER
in Ukrainian 27 Jan 96 pp 3-4

[Speech by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma at a conference held at the Presidential Administration office in Kiev on 24 January: "Acceleration of Privatization Is a Demand of the Times"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed participants in the conference! Today's discussion has painted a more or less complete picture of the state of privatization in Ukraine. I will say right away that I do not see grounds for complacency. Because of the chronic non-implementation of scheduled privatization, the remaining high level of monopolization in the economy, the imperfection of the methodological and normative base, inadequate information about privatization processes, and the weakening of attention to the problem of post-privatization support, there is a danger that reforms will be delayed, and maybe even discredited completely.

To a great extent, these ailments are a result of insufficient cooperation with the Supreme Council, much of the responsibility for which I believe lies with the executive authority.

Serious conclusions should be drawn from this and measures should be outlined to significantly strengthen the privatization policy and the organizational principles of conducting it, and to improve the existing legislation.

We have approached the stage when we must analyze our own experience in the context of the world's experience and to clearly determine the issue generally referred to as privatization ideology. Without this, we will hope in vain for expeditious, comprehensive, and

— what is most important — efficient resolution of this crucial problem.

In light of this, there is probably a need to underscore once again the aim of privatization and its sociopolitical consequences, as well as to determine its next goals.

The main aim of privatization is to cardinal reform ownership relations, and based on this principle, to qualitatively change production relations. Our task is not simply to create private owners, even in large numbers, but to create a society of private owners.

Hence, the main aim of privatization is not to get money for the budget, although this is an important source of budget revenues for financing social projects. Its aim is to combine property with an efficient owner, and, on this basis, to ensure the dynamic development of society's productive forces.

Privatization is also a condition for speedy restructuring of our economy with an eye toward satisfying the needs of the individual. It is also a precondition for transforming a wasteful economy into a resource-saving and energy-saving one.

Finally, it is called on to help shape the individual of the modern age — an active, entrepreneurial individual, able to ensure a worthy life for himself. This is perhaps the most complex task. The forming of our citizens' market mentality and ownership spirit will be a hopeless task without the principal factor: that of property, to develop a respectful attitude toward the results of one's own and other peoples' work, and toward property in general.

We should proceed from the position that privatization makes it possible to substantially increase each individual's responsibility for his own life and to diminish the state's paternalistic role, which has attained unprecedented scope. This is the only real opportunity to build an economy in which those citizens who are incapable of sustaining themselves for objective reasons will receive social assistance instead of alms.

We should at all costs return to the people faith in the necessity and irreversibility of privatization and, primarily, in its considerable social prospects. This is why I would term ideological support of privatization as one of the key tasks.

Currently, one often hears calls and appeals for ensuring equal conditions for all forms of ownership. But for some reason, it is forgotten that this idea is acceptable and correct only if forms of ownership were equally developed now. Thus, such declarations are nothing but a disguised attempt to preserve this real inequality. I think there is no need to convince you that an

exclusively political subtext is concealed behind all this. It is extremely important to see this now, because the first positive steps of reform are usually linked to financial stabilization, and it could be brought to nothing if we do not back it with efficient structural policies in the production field. Progress in this area has been minimal because it has not been reinforced with a broad privatization process.

Our reforms will be doomed to failure if a guided and well-grounded "wave" of privatization does not catch up with the "wave" of financial stabilization.

It is precisely for this, for efficient implementation of any kind of socially significant programs, that we need political will, appropriate legislation, and organizational structures.

What do we have?

Both the president and government of Ukraine have political will and the understanding that without mass privatization there can be no question of truly progressive reform of Ukrainian society. Judging from our conversations, these traits are also inherent in those present in this hall. It would be very desirable to have more allies on this issue also in the Supreme Council, for the course and direction of privatization processes surely depend to a defining extent on legislative provisions. To my great regret, the legislative process is still slow and inconsistent. The existing legislative base is contradictory and entirely absent in many important aspects.

The president of Ukraine is endeavoring to adjust the normative base of privatization with appropriate decrees, but you understand that my possibilities in this area are restricted.

I believe that we can state now that the necessary organizational structure for carrying out privatization has already been established, that is, Ukraine's State Property Fund, its regional branches, and the municipal property funds. However, one should think about possible organizational changes to strengthen those privatization trends that are currently lagging.

There are also certain achievements in informational support of privatization. However, the problems in this area considerably outweigh the achievements.

There is no need to try and convince you that the populace's attitude to privatization and how actively it participates in it depend to a considerable extent on the actual value of property securities. Recently the problem of their devaluation has become extremely aggravated, which could lead to considerable social tension. In fact, primary privatization by certificates and secondary pri-

vatzation by monetary funds have been conducted simultaneously. The pressure of monetary privatization devalues privatization securities. This situation discredits the idea of privatization by certificates. It is necessary to correct this situation urgently.

Privatization of separate groups of facilities is a special issue. We cannot be satisfied with the state of privatization of enterprises with a large stock and a large number of employees (the H group), uncompleted construction, and the agro-industrial complex.

Privatization of H group facilities demands an individual approach, its own methods, and special supervision. This has been very well demonstrated by the experience of privatizing the Motor-Sich production association, the Pobuzkyy ferro-nickel combine, and the Nikolayev alumina plant.

However, we should not restrict ourselves to restoring order in the privatization of these three enterprises. We should once again return to the fundamental principles of privatizing enterprises in this group, taking into account the existing experience, including negative experience. On this basis, we should draw appropriate organizational and normative documents. Proposals on this and draft presidential decrees have already been elaborated.

I would like to draw your attention to the extremely unsatisfactory situation in privatizing uncompleted construction. In my opinion, the reason here lies in an erroneously selected methodology and as a result — in an erroneous approach toward assessing the value of these facilities and in organizational problems faced during their privatization. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has drafted an appropriate edict. I believe that this will help to improve the situation significantly.

However, this can only happen provided that local administration bodies change their attitude toward this issue. There is not a single hotel in Ukraine which would meet European standards. It is often for this reason that prospective investors do not want to come to Ukraine. At the same time, uncompleted hotels in a number of Ukrainian cities are threatened by ruin, because there are no funds to mothball or complete them.

Contractor companies will be forced to rechannel their investments to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Ashgabat, Almaty, or other CIS capitals, which are experiencing a real construction boom. Thousands of Ukrainian citizens currently look for work abroad, including because of our lack of administrative skills. Therefore, I would like to say: enough references to the all-round nature of the crisis. It is time specific questions were resolved at

each administrative level. You have enough powers to do this.

The state of privatization in the agro-industrial complex surely causes the most concern. Perhaps I should have begun with the agro-industrial complex, because it is practically still functioning on the old economic principles. To my great regret, there has so far been far too little substantial changes in ownership relations in rural areas.

Political reasons considerably affect the speed and direction of privatization in the agro-industrial complex. It is precisely in this area that political will to reform ownership relations and production relations meets opposition.

The recent confirmation of this fact is the adoption by the Supreme Council of Ukraine's law "On Peculiarities of Privatization in the Agro-Industrial Complex," which is extremely important to Ukraine. However, Articles 3 and 21 of the law in essence are aimed at preserving the organizational and economic ties that currently exist in the agro-industrial complex. Those articles initiate reprivatization and are antimarket in their nature. In addition, they violate norms of four laws. This forced the Ukrainian president to use his veto right. At the same time, he suggested creating a coordinating commission to redraft the law. The president's proposal was rejected, and only yesterday's fruitless discussion of the law forced the parliament's leadership to understand the president and return to the necessity of coordinating the document.

I cannot ignore another extremely important issue which is directly related to reforming ownership relations in the agro-industrial complex and supplying virtually the entire village population of Ukraine with basic commodities — I mean reform of our consumer cooperatives.

We did not expand privatization processes to involve Ukraine's consumer cooperatives in due time, although we know very well that they had been virtually nationalized in both economic and organizational terms.

Neither can we neglect another essential problem. Regional and city leaders turn to the president with this problem which is directly related to the Ukrainian Cooperative Union. As we know, in line with joint resolution No. 265 passed in 1987 by the Communist Party of Ukraine Central Committee and Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, all kolkhoz markets were subordinated to Ukraine's consumer cooperatives.

However, the passing of an appropriate state decision authorizing the return of that property has been hampered since 1992, and the issue still has not been re-

solved. Oblast state administrations and local councils of people's deputies pass resolutions on allocation of new plots for the construction of new markets. Meanwhile, they do not have powers to correct the situation at the existing kolkhoz markets. This is one thing.

Second, this property should undoubtedly become municipal in terms of status. Municipal property is precisely meant to render services to the population of specific regions. Third, as we know the markets had been subordinated [to consumer cooperatives] and had not become their property. Fourth, local administration bodies do not have too many sources of revenue for proper maintenance of the sphere of consumer services, and thus cannot afford to ignore the existing opportunities.

Thus, the aforementioned fact of transferring state property should be analyzed from the viewpoint of ownership relations that existed in that period, as well as from the perspective of establishing new, market-type ownership relations and national economic expediency, particularly since all the legal and objective grounds exist for this.

Now a few words about the privatization of municipal property. The most worrying thing about this is local leaders' almost complete unwillingness to privatize this property in the volumes and time frames stipulated by the law. At the same time, on the one hand, there are no funds to maintain or use it, and on the other hand, there is a wish to own it for as long as possible. Is this for the good? I doubt it.

In connection with this, I would like to remind local leaders and Ukraine's State Property Fund that by law municipal property belongs to the state. Therefore, all acts concerning privatization apply to it, as does accountability for not implementing them.

Another aspect of privatization, perhaps the most important one, is linked to its social aspects. Right now privatization is to some extent viewed with suspicion in society. Given that privatization is the cornerstone of economic reform, the corresponding attitude to this reform and to all of our economic policies is also shaped. Why is this? It is difficult to convince the average citizen that the difficulties in life have not been produced by market reforms but that problems occur because the reforms are slow, not always decisive, and not consistent enough. Therefore, I would like to stress once again that there is no alternative to expediting privatization and improving it.

Now about the organizational problems of privatization. What have we established at this conference? We have

chronic violations of the schedules for drawing up, approving, and implementing privatization plans, including state-wide, sectoral, and regional ones, an imperfect nature of existing methods, and insufficient organizational development of privatization bodies, especially in the regions.

Privatization, however, is not only a matter for Ukraine's State Property Fund, its branches, and the municipal property funds. It is a matter for practically all leaders of ministries and departments, and definitely of all state administrations without exception. Because this is not just an action, not a one-time measure, but state policy. At the same time, there are grounds to say that there is still a certain vagueness in ministries, departments, and other bodies of state executive authority regarding their place in the privatization processes. This is precisely why it is necessary to fundamentally increase the personal accountability of officials in bodies of state executive authority for adherence to privatization plans, and for the state of privatization in general.

In the series of organizational problems of privatization, special attention should be paid to the fact that thus far the Ukrainian president's policies and Ukrainian Supreme Council decisions have often been distorted or simply have not been carried out in the regions. Therefore, it is also necessary to substantially increase the accountability of managers of individual state-wide and municipal enterprises liable for privatization. Holding back or blocking these processes, which the State Property Fund has drawn attention to, not only actually slows down privatization, but also prolongs monopolism, including in the non-state sector of the economy. For example, holding companies are used for this. Proposals have been voiced to establish holding companies on administrative rather than market principles, without taking into account the economic interests of the participants of specific holding companies. I request that leaders of those ministries and departments whose enterprises are liable to privatization to pay attention the issue of holding companies, and so should heads of state administrations.

All attempts to use privatization to replace state monopolism with private monopolism constitute a direct problem, including for Ukraine's Antimonopoly Committee. If we fail to overcome this problem today, we will be facing it for many years, spending a lot of money.

Often one can hear criticism of privatization, based solely on mistakes and negative examples. However, can this be the reason for slowing down privatization or holding it up altogether? Should we abandon our work only because thus far we have not done it professionally

enough and it has not produced enough results? Or perhaps, on the contrary, we should make joint efforts to do this work much better? In my opinion, the answer is evident. The real state of privatization should be grounds for more fruitful and mutually coordinated work, above all of the executive authority, and for its constructive cooperation with the legislative authority on the one hand to improve the normative base for privatization, and on the other hand for steady and precise adherence to it.

Incidentally, we have now come to a more general problem: Who forms state policy for privatization and who should bear responsibility for diverging from it? And finally — given the division of powers in the state — what is state policy? Is state policy the policy of the president of Ukraine, the Supreme Council, the Cabinet of Ministers, or regional political elites? Right now we have a combination of all these elements. It is very vague, malleable, and unproductive. We have a certain lack of accountability for the existing situation. Therefore, it is finally necessary to take a definitive position that the president of Ukraine shapes state policy. In the elections he asked the people for their support to form and implement namely his policies, and he got it. The only restriction on the content of these policies — the direction, speed, and so on — is the Ukrainian constitution, or currently — the Constitutional Agreement. Different forms of veto demonstrate that this is really so: The president has the right of a postponing veto, and the Supreme Council has the right of a final veto.

I have touched on this issue today namely because of privatization. Therefore, I want to emphasize again that I attach fundamental political importance to it. This is practically the only way of realizing our common desire to become a truly developed society. However, the president's policies come up against ever more active counteraction from well-known political forces. I cannot but note that there is a certain "quiet" counteraction within the structure of executive authority, too. That is why I call on everyone, primarily representatives of the executive authority, to take a principled stance once and for all in their own actions, and not just in words: Should we or should we not create a market economy and on these principles ensure the well-being of the people, which will be no worse than that in developed countries.

A number of privatization problems and ways of resolving them have become comprehensible not only to specialists, but to most of Ukraine's citizens too. In particular, thanks to privatization, we will be able to separate enterprises with prospects from those doomed to closure because they chronically lose money. We will

remove the social welfare burden from the production sector so that it becomes competitive. It is namely in this direction that reform should proceed, for example, in the coal industry and in machine-building.

A privatized enterprise is a potential object for attracting foreign investment. A state enterprise can hardly count on this. Unfortunately, there is currently a view common in society that it is better for an enterprise to be privatized by its own staff than to allow foreign capital into the process. This especially concerns some machine-building enterprises. The main thing in resolving this problem is to think about how to bring the enterprise up to a modern technological level, provide people with jobs and the state with tax revenues, and how to begin to work rather than "stick to one's principles" while remaining proud beggars.

As a result of today's conference, I have determined the following strategic tasks:

- to essentially improve the involvement of Ukrainian citizens in participation in privatization;
- to support private owners;
- to promote the development of small businesses;
- to create a more organizationally and economically favorable environment to attract foreign investment to Ukraine's economy, in particular its participation in privatization.

At the same time, we have to solve a number of important specific problems with the direct participation of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

1. To increase the motivation of Ukrainian citizens to take part in privatization and to stimulate enterprise staff and managers to take an active part in carrying out privatization programs, and to make state officials more accountable for qualitative and timely implementation of privatization program tasks;
2. To carry out a number of measures to guarantee privatization securities with real property in order to prevent their devaluation;
3. To simplify the procedure for determining the price of facilities subject to privatization, especially those to be privatized by commercial competition or auction;
4. To take a more well-grounded stance on establishing additional conditions for privatization, their expediency, how they affect efficiency (the viability of time frames and so on);

5. To reduce considerably the time frame for privatizing all facilities;

6. To take a fundamental stance on the aspects and peculiarities of privatization in the agro-industrial complex, and to make privatization in that sector market-oriented.

7. To ensure normative and organizational support for the resolution of the problem of managing those enterprises which remain state property or are elements of enterprises with a mixed form of ownership;

8. To undertake measures to raise the status and increase the powers of Ukraine's State Property Fund, to beef up its staff by attracting employees of other central economic institutions;

9. To ensure regular revision of the list of enterprises that are subject to privatization and to initiate [regular] corrections of the list by the Ukrainian Supreme Council. This should be done based on an analysis of the efficiency of the operation of individual state-run and municipal enterprises and on conclusions on the expediency of their transfer to private owners. One of the decisive grounds should be bankruptcy of those enterprises which were established on the basis of state property and were not entered on the list of government-owned [kazenny] enterprises;

10. The existing list of measures should be put in order and new measures should be drawn up to induce the interest of foreign investors to privatization in Ukraine;

11. Proposals and specific assistance offered by international organizations should be used persistently. The primary aim of our cooperation with those organizations is tangible results for jointly initiated programs and projects;

12. The state should fundamentally enhance its attention to the enterprises' situation and operation within a specific post-privatization period. The aim of this is to obtain reliable information and undertake timely measures to support enterprises that belong to the private sector of economy during the most responsible and dramatic stage of their establishment.

I would like to emphasize that, taking into account the extreme social and political importance of completing primary privatization in 1996, its course, problems, and most essential decisions will constantly be within the Ukrainian president's purview.

I believe that a useful exchange of opinions was held here today on a very important state issue. It will help us make more specific conceptual decisions on aspects of privatization, its problems, further joint steps, and, finally, its sociopolitical goals. I am sure that the results of this conference will convince you, and I hope vast groups of Ukrainian society, that our course is persistent

and irreversible. I would like to remind you that this is our common cause. The future of the Ukrainian nation to a great extent depends on how we cope with it.

Thank you for participating in the conference. I wish you all fruitful work and joint accomplishments.

Belarus

Russia's Primakov Pays 2-Day Visit to Belarus

Lukashenka, Primakov Meet Reporters 30 Jan
WSO102111796 Minsk BTK Television Network
in Belarusian 1900 GMT 30 Jan 96

[Report by A. Zimowski]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the first day of his visit, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov met President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. The sides discussed a range of issues pertaining to bilateral relations and the international situation. Later Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Yevgeniy Primakov briefly answered journalists' questions.

[Begin recording] [Primakov] I believe that relations will be developing at an accelerated pace. We are looking forward to a visit by the Belarusian president to Moscow, probably in March.

[Lukashenka] Yes, in March.

[Primakov] It will be a new milestone in the development of our relations. Integration processes will be developing. I am sure about that. I know the sentiments of President Yeltsin, who unconditionally supports this.

[Lukashenka] My position is known in both Russia and Belarus. As I said recently in Moscow, we have made our move; and we have done so very solidly and firmly, as befits the fraternal nation. Now it is time for the fraternal Russian nation and the leadership to act. And Yevgeniy Maksimovich [Primakov] has once again confirmed today that Moscow is oriented, just as it was yesterday, at the integration and movement toward the Belarusian people. And I think that in March we will be able to make another step that will deepen the cooperation between our states. [end recording]

Primakov, Chyhir Interviewed 30 Jan
WSO102093996 Minsk BTK Television Network
in Belarusian 1900 GMT 30 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov has arrived in Belarus on an official visit. Yevgeniy Primakov and Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir talk in an exclusive interview for the Atn Dyyalohi television program how integration processes between Belarus and Russia will progress.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] We have a lot of enterprises directly connected with Russia. At the same time, we know that Russia is launching alternative production methods. How should the inte-

gration between Russia and Belarus be viewed in this context?

[Primakov] The integration is a more complex process than you think. [It is not about] whether an analogous enterprise is created. Let me explain. For example, the Belarusian prime minister says that local enterprises sometimes buy copper wire in Germany, but not in Russia, because it is cheaper to buy there. Here is the answer to your question. You see? If we are moving toward a market economy, integration processes, naturally, should be under way. The integration processes should also take the form of some common financial-industrial groups that connect production in Belarus and Russia. But on no account should they violate... they should not lead to state planning under the new conditions, whereby Belarus receives one task and Russia the other. By giving orders, this joint state planning would completely frustrate the movement of capital, labor force, and so on. It is not integration. I mean, this is one of the forms of integration, but this is the kind of integration through which we have already gone. This is why it seems to me that one should not approach this issue the way you do, although I do see common sense in what you are saying. We should ensure that Russian-made products that are in demand in Belarus are sold at prices affordable for Belarusian consumers. The same applies to Belarus.

[Chyhir] I would like to add something. You [speaking to correspondent] are not quite right. Creating alternative enterprises in Russia parallel to Belarusian ones was typical for Russia three years ago. Recently, this position has changed. Not so long ago, about six months back, we raised the issue of the usefulness of establishing a tire plant for large trucks. This would create an enterprise similar to our Belarusian tire plant. Russia dropped the idea of setting up such an enterprise. As for small cases — today we discussed them — three bus-making facilities have appeared in Belarus, in Lida, Minsk, and Pinsk. It is no problem. [Words indistinct] do better and cheaper, let it manufacture.

[Correspondent speaking to Primakov] We know that you have always been an advocate of Russia's rapprochement with the CIS countries, including Belarus. Apparently this support would be needed for the integration of Belarus with Russia.

[Primakov] I believe this as well, because when I was appointed to this post, I received a mandate from President Yeltsin. And this mandate is, among other things, to give priority to the scope of the Foreign Ministry's activities and relations among CIS countries.

[Correspondent] I may be repeating myself, but when you were meeting with President [Lukashenka], you

were also asked about NATO's eastward expansion. Belarus is against this expansion too. How do you see this happening today?

[Primakov] Well, this had better not happen — either today or tomorrow. We are against this, but not because we dismiss the problems being experienced by East and Central European countries. We oppose this not because we think that those countries should necessarily be alienated from Europe. Let them join all economic organizations and other European structures. That is not the point. The point is that their admission to NATO will automatically bring NATO structures right to our borders. Let me just cite you one example in this connection: medium-range missiles. We have eliminated them as a class. And we believed that we had achieved very much. Why? Because at that time, the flight time of those missiles to reach the center of the Soviet Union was short, seven or eight minutes, 10 minutes at the most, maybe less. Now, if the NATO infrastructure nears our borders, tactical missiles could be installed with the same flight time as the destroyed medium-range missiles. That is the example. The geopolitical situation would then be worse for us. This is why we are trying to find solutions. But, for Christ's sake, do not purport the statements on this position to mean that we have the right of veto, and that we tell the Central and East European countries, slamming our fists on the table, do not join, we forbid, and so on. Of course, it is not the case. The Cold War does not exist now. We, however, need to find a solution. And no one will force us to agree with the turns and processes that run counter to our interests — in this case, Belarusian and Russian interests. [end recording]

A REUTER correspondent received an unequivocal answer to his question about strategic weapons on Belarusian territory.

[Begin Primakov recording] There is an all-round accord on bringing nuclear weapons out of Belarus. I think that this accord will not be violated. [end recording]

Primakov-Syanko 30 Jan Talks Reported

WS0102103096 Minsk BTK Television Network
in Belarusian 1900 GMT 30 Jan 96

[Report by V. Kharkov]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian diplomatic chief [Primakov] has confirmed that he has no intention of putting off implementing the statement he made at the time of his appointment. The statement said that the ministry sees relations with the CIS countries as priority. Before his arrival in the Belarusian capital, Yevgeniy Primakov managed to visit the Central Asian region of the former Soviet Union. In Minsk, his first

negotiations were held with his Belarusian counterpart [Foreign Minister] Uladzimir Syanko. Despite the fact that the Russian foreign minister's visit is, to some extent, one of familiarization, it is hard to overestimate the usefulness of the meetings which may determine important factors of our interaction.

During the conversation of Primakov and Syanko, aspects of international relations, coordination of international positions, and development of integration processes were discussed. In the words of the Russian minister, Belarus is one of the closest partners of the eastern neighbor. Political relations between the two countries should be coordinated, but maintained based on the preservation of sovereignty. At the same time, this does not eliminate the need for integration, primarily in the economic field.

Primakov Meets Belarus Parliamentary Leaders

LD3101131896 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is our correspondent in Belarus, Yuriy Sverko, with his report on Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov's stay in Minsk.

[Sverko] The second day of Primakov's visit to Belarus started with a meeting with the leadership of the Belarusian Parliament. Semyon Sharetskiy, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus noted that the development of interparliamentary and interstate links is a priority task facing the new deputies' corps. Petr Krawchanka, the chairman of the parliamentary standing commission for international affairs, former Belarusian foreign minister, spoke at a meeting with Primakov about the problem of compensation to the Belarusian side for the disintegrating uranium in the nuclear warheads removed to Russia. The reaction of the Russian foreign minister to this question is not known because the final news conference scheduled for this morning failed to take place. The functionaries of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry said that the guest from Moscow had unexpectedly left for the Khatyn memorial complex. In fact, it has been promised to correspondents that at Minsk-1 airport at about 1500 Moscow time, Primakov will nevertheless give a news conference on the results of his visit to Minsk, right before taking an ordinary scheduled flight to Kiev.

**Belarus: Primakov on 'Problems' With NATO
Expansion**

LD3101134596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1304 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By a BELTA-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 31 Jan — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov, who is on a visit here, said that if East European countries join NATO, "this will automatically bring NATO structures nearer to the borders of the Commonwealth, and this, in turn, brings about a whole range of problems."

"For instance, we have eliminated medium-range missiles and believed that we had reached a great deal. But if the NATO infrastructure comes close to the border, NATO could deploy tactical missiles there with the same approach time as that of the eliminated medium-range missiles. The geopolitical situation is changing for the worse for us, too. So that is why we want to find a solution," he told journalists.

Yevgeniy Primakov denied claims alleging that Russia will try to retain a nuclear potential in Belarus to reciprocate NATO's eastward expansion. "There is a full agreement on the withdrawal of nuclear arms from Belarus," he said, "and I believe that it will not be breached."

Primakov, Lukashenka Discuss NATO

LD3101161596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1549 GMT 31 Jan 96

[By Valentina Menshova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, January 31 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov and Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka discussed NATO's eastward expansion on Wednesday, the final day of Primakov's official visit to Belarus.

"Russia negatively assesses the North Atlantic Alliance's determination to embrace Eastern European countries in its military structures," Primakov told reporters after the meeting.

"I was glad to hear that Belarus assesses the situation with the same rigidity. NATO's leadership assured us that there will be a pause in the Alliance expansion in 1996, and only then will its borders move eastwards. Neither Russia nor Belarus can agree to it," he said.

"During a year-long moratorium, the concerned parties had better work together in an attempt to find solutions that would satisfy the demands of countries willing to integrate into NATO without moving its military infrastructure eastwards," Primakov said.

With approaching NATO's military structure the borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), a "complex of problems" arises, he said.

"We considered that we have achieved much by eliminating (our) medium-range missiles. But if NATO's infrastructure approaches the border, tactical missiles with the same flight time as medium-range ones may be installed on it. The geopolitical situation is getting worse for us. That is why we want to find a solution," the Russian foreign minister said.

Primakov described as "very successful and busy" his first official visit to Belarus as Russian foreign minister.

"The Belarusian policy was expressed and confirmed very clearly. We are determined to cooperate with Russia as closely as possible," Lukashenka told reporters at a joint news conference.

"Whoever of representatives of foreign countries tries to speculate on our relations, they will fail to stir up discord between the two fraternal nations," Lukashenka said.

"In my opinion, integration processes between our countries will develop more rapidly. We are looking forward to a visit to Moscow by the Belarusian president next March," Primakov said.

"It will be a new landmark on the path of the development of bilateral relations. Knowing and sharing Russian President Boris Yeltsin's attitude towards the fraternal Belarusian nation, I feel optimistic," he said.

According to both sides, every reason is available for deepening integration between Belarus and Russia. A package of documents has been prepared and the legal field has been created for their implementation, they said.

As part of his visit, Primakov and Belarusian parliament speaker Mikhail Chyhir (name and title as received) discussed Russian-Belarusian economic integration, its prospects, and problems facing the economies of the two countries.

"Deepening integration between the CIS member states, including Belarus, is a strategic line of Moscow's policy," Primakov said at a meeting with Belarus parliament speaker Semyon Sharetzkiy.

"We spoke of the necessity to fill the wide concept of integration with real content," Sharetzkiy said in an interview with the Belarusian national news agency BELTA.

Belarus: Primakov Holds News Conference

LD3101200296 Minsk Radio Minsk Network
in Belarusian 1700 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The negotiations between Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov, have once more shown the proximity of the positions of the leadership of the two countries on the issue of possible NATO expansion to the east. According to Primakov, the Russian leadership intends to do everything possible this year to prevent the move of the NATO infrastructure to the western borders of the CIS. The Belarus president agreed with the need to oppose the process of NATO expansion to the east.

Today, Primakov's official visit to Belarus ended. Here is a report by Svetlana Ilyushenka:

[Begin recording] [Ilyushenka] During the foreign minister's summit meetings a lot of attention was focused on various issues of further integration between Russia and Belarus while preserving the sovereignty of each country. Of course, it was not a coincidence that Belarus was the first country he visited as foreign minister. The nations of Russia and Belarus have a common fate and history and a mutual aspiration to integrate. This was discussed at a press conference at the Minsk-1 Airport. The Belarus Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko, described the visit of his counterpart as successful.

[Syanko, in Russian] First of all I would like to stress the importance of the meetings and negotiations which were held between the head of state, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the speaker of our parliament, Syamen Sharetskiy, and the chairman of our government, Mikhail Chyhir. Altogether we have discussed in essence all the issues of the Belarusian-Russian relations, assessed both the current situation and what is in store for us in the near future.

[Ilyushenka] The Russian foreign minister shared with us his impressions on the official visit:

[Primakov, in Russian] Indeed, I fully agree that the negotiations were very successful. I was greatly satisfied with the meetings I had here on Belarusian soil. We did not have here [words indistinct] the situations which we would have to discuss to find a way out. Our relations are very smooth and are getting better. Belarus for us is a special partner, a special ally, and a special brother. For us, the relations with Belarus are especially important. I think that these relations cannot but develop upwards. [words indistinct] I have received a great satisfaction from my meeting with the president and other Belarusian leaders. [words indistinct] I am leaving with the best feelings, with the best wishes for the

Belarusian people and I am confident that our relations are unclouded and they will develop. [end recording]

Belarus Parliamentary Speaker: Primakov Visit 'Successful'

LD3101192796 Moscow NTV in Russian
1600 GMT 31 Jan 96

[Video report by Aleksandr Stupnikov and Konstantin Morozov in Minsk; from the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Possibly, Belarus now has fresh hopes of assistance from Russia. Talks between the delegations of both countries ended in Minsk today. There was a lot of discussion during the talks on drawing closer together and on economic integration. Incidentally, international problems were not ignored.

[Stupnikov] It seems that both sides sincerely assessed the practically two-day working visit by Yevgeniy Primakov, minister of foreign affairs of Russia, to Minsk as successful. Today Yevgeniy Primakov held a meeting with Semyon Sharetskiy, new speaker of the Belarusian parliament, who assured Moscow that Belarus was ready for comprehensive political cooperation.

[Begin Sharetskiy recording] The fact of the matter is that we are evidently on that threshold in which words have to be fleshed out with the content of these concepts of integration and Primakov, minister of foreign affairs, and I spoke more about that. There should be concrete steps. [end recording]

[Stupnikov] Minsk once again showed a readiness for a summit in the near future. Both Moscow and Minsk again spoke out categorically against eastward expansion of NATO. The president of Belarus did not hide his concern about the appearance of a NATO infrastructure on the Republic's frontiers. Yevgeniy Primakov also spoke quite specifically on this theme.

[Begin Primakov recording] I think that what is at issue is not even who shares what position. Our positions are the same. [end recording]

[Stupnikov] That means not only the further deepening of military and political integration of Russia and Belarus, but also the actual satisfaction in principle of the demands of the military-industrial complex of Belarus, which is in a sorry state today. To all appearances, Russia will avail itself of the rich intellectual and scientific and technical potential of Belarusia's military-industrial complex. Both Moscow and Minsk expressed complete satisfaction with the results of the visit by Yevgeniy Primakov to Belarus. This time, too, this satisfaction seems to be sincere if, of course, sincerity is admissible from the political point of view.

Kazakhstan

Kazakh Foreign Minister Cites UN Praise of CIS Peace Efforts

LD3101205596 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1750 GMT 31 Jan 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Jan 31 (Interfax) — Kazakh Foreign Minister Qasymzhomart Toqayev told Interfax today that the U.N. leadership "highly praises the peace efforts made by the Central Asian countries."

The creation of the peacekeeping battalion by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan proves that the Central Asian republics seek close cooperation with the world community, he said.

A visiting U.N. delegation held talks the heads of the Kazakh Foreign and Defense Ministries in Almaty Tuesday to discuss the drafting of an agreement between the U.N. and Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan regarding assistance to creation of the tripartite peacekeeping battalion.

The battalion will join U.N. peacekeeping forces in reserve, Toqayev said. "If necessary, the battalion numbering 500 people can serve in any of the world's trouble-spots," he said. The battalion will be deployed in Kazakhstan close to the border with Uzbekistan, Toqayev said.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed that such a battalion under the U.N. aegis be created when speaking at the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] Budapest summit in 1994. The presidents of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan decided to create the battalion in December 1995 and requested the U.N. to provide possible assistance.

The U.N. delegation will also visit Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, and Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

President Nazarbayev Addresses New Parliament

LD3101165396 Almaty Kazakh Television First
Program Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 96

[Address by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to first session of new parliament in Almaty on 30 January — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Respected deputies! We should all understand that a very complicated, unusual situation has arisen during the time the country has been without a parliament. [passage omitted]

If everything we planned had been fully implemented, if the work of the government, of every department, every akim had been first-rate, as they say, then Kazakhstan's

economy would have done much better, the life of its population would undoubtedly have been much better. Despite my repeated orders, the government and the national bank failed to reach a solution on a number of fundamentally important problems, many of which have already turned into an abnormal phenomenon. Above all, I am referring to eliminating the payment crisis. I had to tell the government repeatedly when it presented its report that this was a large-scale task requiring an urgent solution. We must get powerful forces, the best minds in the country, to concentrate their efforts on this. Otherwise, we will flounder and waste the progress that we have managed to make with much effort.

The government is very slowly solving the task of creating a favorable and stable investment climate. This extremely important sphere is always in a fever, either in terms of organization, or of providing the legal foundations, and even as regards the procedure for registering investment projects and guarantees. Every time new ideas are expressed, there is discussion, but not very constructive or practical suggestions are introduced.

There have been quite a few other errors and shortcomings in the work of the government, organizations, and other structures of power and management, but the main problem is in the social sphere. I will not accept any excuses when government officials allow the bad practice of creating wage and pension arrears. Last year, there were many cases of long delays in paying money that was the single and very modest source of existence for hundreds and thousands of our compatriots. I think that the government should sort this out once and for all with the heads of enterprises — of any form of ownership — which have the means, but are not paying wages in time, and with those who artificially create the nonpayment problem. The presidential administration and general prosecutors office will supervise the implementation of laws and decrees I have adopted on questions relating to improving the social conditions of the population. Control should be strict and constant. You should all understand precisely that all directions of reform, all measures being taken in every sphere in the economy should finally have a positive effect on the growth of people's incomes, on improving their material well-being. This is a key area. If you want to know, it is the essence of our reforms. Otherwise why are we carrying out reforms and the complete reconstruction of the state at all? We must check at every stage the efficiency of all reforms using this main indicator. [passage omitted]

Respected deputies! I would like to draw your attention to a number of points, which, to my mind, are very important for our fruitful work, the work of parliament.

The question of the nature of mutual relations between parliament and other branches of state power is always a critical issue and is shaking all of the former Soviet Union and beyond. We also suffered; we stumbled through this stage. World practice, as well as our experience here in Kazakhstan, has shown that this problem has always been and remains topical. The basis for its solution is the principle of the division of powers, which is being implemented through a system of balancing and counterbalancing. This principle proposes mutual relations where the branches of power act independently, where one does not gain influence at the expense of the other and does not encroach on the other's territory. This was the stumbling block of the previous parliament: They could not share with each other. Everyone wanted more and no-one knew their limits. This always led and will continue to lead to confrontation.

I, personally — as president, who bears the responsibility of constitutional duty to ensure coordinated interaction between all branches of power — will see to it that these balances and the constitutional framework are observed in your relations with other branches of state power — first and foremost with the executive, by that I mean, of course, the government. For me it is equally important that there be equal relations between all branches of power and that the high status of both parliament and government, and respect for them in our country, be maintained. [passage omitted]

Time and again we come across the question of the balance between different branches of power. Every time the danger arises of this balance being disrupted on one or the other side. Desperate struggles by various institutions of state power to extend their power have led and are still leading many countries to serious cataclysms. [passage omitted]

We do not need this. I see it as my duty not to allow this at any price, even if it means dissolving parliament and having the government resign. The existing Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan envisages both. I will do everything — together with you, of course — to ensure that this parliament works for the whole period stipulated in the Constitution, the more so that everything is clearly outlined in the Constitution — the tasks of parliament, government, and the judicial bodies. If we follow the Constitution to the letter, we will work in coordination, in the name of duty, of common duty, for the sake of the future of our country.

Yes, the country's basic law gives parliament the right to a vote of no confidence in the government. This is an inalienable element of the system of balancing and counterbalancing relations between the legislative and the executive powers. When the situation requires

it, you actually can call the executive powers, or any member of government, to account. At the same time, such rights require the highest degree of responsibility on the part of those who possess them. In light of this, I hope there will be coordinated work between you and the executive powers, the more so that the government also has constitutional levers of influence on parliament: Through the president the government can determine the priority laws for discussion, and you will be obliged to follow this; raise the question of confidence in yourself, which would put parliament in a certain situation; and, finally, only with the consent of the government may parliament submit for consideration questions about budget expenditure. So, if you work harmoniously, you will settle all questions. [passage omitted]

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov: 'Foreign' Forces Destabilizing Situation

LD0102080096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0704 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 1 Feb — Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov has accused "foreign political forces" of destabilizing the situation in the Tajik towns of Kurgan-Tyube and Tursunzadeh [in the southern and western parts of the republic]. He said that they were provoking a social crisis "in order for the republic to disappear from the world map completely." The head of state said this in an address to the Supreme Assembly's session which opened in Dushanbe today with the discussion of the situation in the republic.

The president put forward a proposal that a special commission should be set up from among the people's deputies, the country's prosecutor-general and representatives from the power ministries to examine the situation on the site and negotiate with armed groups in Kurgan Tyube and Tursunzadeh.

As previously reported, armed supporters of parliamentary deputy Ibodullo Boymatov, former mayor of the town of Tursunzadeh, and Makhmud Khudoyberdiyev, commander of the First Motorized Rifle Brigade of the Defense Ministry of Tajikistan, demanded the resignation of the government on 26-27 January. Both groups are well armed and have armor.

The president of Tajikistan called on the commission to study the situation in detail "unemotionally" and enter into talks with the leaders of the armed groups, while keeping within the constitution and existing laws. "We well remember what demands like these lead

to," Emomali Rakhmanov said. "They began the same way in 1991-1992: first the resignation of individual members of the government, then a complete blockade of Dushanbe and the resignation of Tajikistan's first president, then it spilled into civil war."

When the commission finishes its work, information on the situation in Tursunzadeh, Kurgan-Tyube, and Tajikistan's other areas of "unrest" will be heard.

Tajik Delegation To Interrupt Talks if Posts Attacked

*LD3101150896 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1301 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, Jan 31 (Interfax) — The Tajik government delegation will interrupt the inter-Tajik negotiations in Ashgabat if Tajik opposition gunmen attack Tajik Defense Ministry posts in Tavildarinskiy region again, Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov, heading the Dushanbe delegation, warned Wednesday.

"The government party will be forced to abstain from continuing the negotiations until complete ceasefire," he said.

A detachment of Tajik opposition fighters attacked a government forces' post in the village of Lairon in the Tavildarinskiy region, about 250 kilometers to the east of Dushanbe, in the evening of January 30. This is a cruel violation of the ceasefire agreement on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the republic, he said.

Two military men from Tajikistan's Defense Ministry were killed as a result of this attack, Nazarov said.

The government commission presented its proposals on settling the situation in the republic to the opposition on January 31. In particular, these proposals provide for the creation of a Forum of Tajikistan's Peoples and for legitimizing opposition political parties and movements.

For his part, leader of the opposition delegation Akbar Turadzhonzada said that proposals of official Dushanbe are unacceptable, as they imply violation of an equal quantitative representation of the parties in the Forum of Tajikistan's Peoples.

At the same time Turadzhonzada said that the opposition delegation "will examine the proposals carefully."

The opposition delegation is expected to present its remarks on the government delegation proposals on February 1.

Tajik Delegation Demands End to Opposition Violence

*LD3101180396 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network
in Tajik 1100 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Unofficial talks were held between government and opposition delegations in Ashgabat today. The sides mainly discussed the political situation and ways of achieving national reconciliation and full peace in Tajikistan. The talks were held in an atmosphere of openness and good understanding (husni tafahom).

Then the next plenary meeting began. The leader of the government delegation, Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov, read a proposal from the government delegation for settling the discord among the Tajiks. This document speaks about the establishment within the framework of the inter-Tajik talks of a forum of the people of Tajikistan, which will lay the foundation for full peace in the country.

Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, the UN secretary-general's representative, praised the government delegation's proposal for eliminating discord among Tajiks and called it a serious step forward and a new measure.

At today's meeting Talbak Nazarov also read the following statement by the government delegation on the undesirable events in Tavildara and at the 12th border post:

Statement of the government delegation of Tajikistan.

Despite several statements by the opposition on its observance of the Tehran agreement, the 19th [as heard] border post of the Russian Federation's Border Troops in Tajikistan and their observation points have been shelled by rockets nine times, as a result of which some people have been killed.

Armed opposition detachments attacked the government troops' observation posts in the area of Layron in Tavildara District in the Republic of Tajikistan on 31 January and as a result two soldiers were killed. The republic's government delegation has assessed the opposition forces' adventurist deeds as breaching the Tehran agreement and the joint statement adopted in Ashgabat on 13 December 1995. Taking this into account, the government of the Republic of Tajikistan demands an immediate stop to such operations, which hinder fruitful talks between the sides and obstruct the decisive obligations adopted. Otherwise, the government side will be forced to abstain from continuing the negotiations until a complete cessation of fire and of other damaging acts.

[Signed] Talbak Nazarov, head of the government delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan, minister of

foreign affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, 31 January 1996.

Tajik Opposition Urges President To Dismiss Corrupt Officials

LD0102074396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0540 GMT 1 Feb 96

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Feb — "We don't want bloodshed and we are hoping that the Tajik president will be sensible enough to rid his immediate entourage and the government of corrupt officials," Colonel Safar Dzhurayev, chief of staff of the first brigade, which is based in Kurgan-Tyube told ITAR-TASS today. This unit, which is being led by Makhmud Khudoberdiyev, took control of Kurgan-Tyube on 27 January and demanded the resignation of local authorities and the government in general.

According to the chief of staff, "the issue of the government's resignation will be addressed through active [aktivnim] steps if these demands are ignored and the blame will be on Dushanbe politicians." Dzhurayev, however, said that they had met with First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Assembly Abdulmajid Dostiyev, who "promised to tell President [Emomali] Rakhmanov about our demands." "We, in turn, are prepared to wait for as long as necessary for the head of state to examine them," the spokesman for the first brigade said.

He categorically denied rumors that Khudoberdiyev's unit had rendered military and technical support for Ibot Boymatov's group in Tursunzoda. According to Dzhurayev, Khudoberdiyev does not have any contacts with Ibot Boymatov. "The only thing which they have in common is their wish to help the people of Tajikistan," he said.

'Rebel Colonel' Demands Tajik Government's Resignation

LD0102110396 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 1 Feb 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, on the instruction of President Emomali Rakhmanov, First Deputy Parliament Speaker Abdulmajid Dustiyev held talks with the rebels. According to ITAR-TASS, the talks resulted in the deputy speaker's promise to inform the head of the Tajik state about the demands of the military. Our correspondent has met the rebel colonel, Mahmud Khudoberdiyev, who has been holding the town of Kurgan-

Tyube since 27 January. The situation in the town is calm.

[Begin Khudoberdiyev recording, identified by caption] We have one demand. We demand that the whole of the government, except for the interior minister, comrade Major General [Saidamir] Zuhurov, resign. We will support the Tajik president. Our attitude to him is very good. Our people respect their president, but he is surrounded by incompetent people. Take, for instance, comrade defense minister, who has arrived from the Interior Ministry. He has no knowledge of the Defense Ministry's structure. So, the Defense Ministry has now fallen to pieces. So how can we tell the Russian Army to leave our land if our Defense Ministry is crumbling. You see? We have not got a strong army of our own at present. The deadline is expiring this evening, when the president must issue orders. I will say it again: We respect the president. As to the future, we will think about it when it happens. [end recording]

Uzbekistan

Uzbek Supreme Assembly, Foreign Ministry Address Tajik People

LD3101172096 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1430 GMT 31 Jan 96

["Address" by the Supreme Assembly and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the president, parliament, and people of Tajikistan; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] An address to the president, parliament, and people of Tajikistan.

The public and all sections of the population of Uzbekistan are worried about the situation in the Republic of Tajikistan that has developed in recent days.

We all know the destructive consequences of the civil war in neighboring Tajikistan, which has taken the lives of tens of thousands of that country's citizens and reversed the development of its economy by decades. This indicates that any new confrontation or tension in Tajik society will have unpredictable and destructive consequences. We understand the difficulties that are being felt by the unfortunate Tajik people. Uzbekistan, which is connected with Tajikistan by deep and traditional ties of friendship and brotherhood, has always rendered comprehensive humanitarian support and assistance to the population of the Republic of Tajikistan and will continue to do so in future.

The multiethnic people of Tajikistan — Tajiks, Russians, Uzbeks, and others — can always be sure that Uzbekistan has been and remains their good neighbor

and trustworthy friend. We are addressing one single appeal to the president of Tajikistan, the public of that country, and all reasonable people: do not permit new bloodshed and confrontation, make all efforts to settle by peaceful means alone and by negotiations the conflict that has developed. We are convinced that the nationally elected president of the Republic of Tajikistan and the country's parliament will manage to unite all sections of Tajikistan's population, irrespective of their political convictions and nationality, for the sake of establishing a stable peace and achieving stability, nationwide accord, and a future for the Republic of Tajikistan.

The leaders of the various groups that have been active in recent days in the towns of Tursunzade and Kurgan-Tyube, putting forward various demands, should realize

the full seriousness and complexity of the present situation in the Republic of Tajikistan and should in any event not use force to settle the conflict. Armed actions and confrontation were never the way to achieve peace, and naturally nobody will ever support them. We are firmly convinced that only care for people, protection of their interests, negotiations, constructive dialogue, and the settlement of all contentious issues at the negotiating table are the sole way to achieve long-term peace, stability, and calm on the soil of Tajikistan.

[Signed] Supreme Assembly of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Decreases Closure of Russian-Abkhazian Border

LD3101204796 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1926 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, Jan 31 (Interfax) — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze decreed Wednesday to introduce border and customs controls on the section of the Russian-Georgian border in and around the seaport of Sukhumi on the territory of Abkhazia.

According to the decree, the seaport and the border section will be closed to all international shipments, except for humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian aid will be delivered on the basis of one-off permissions issued by Georgia's competent bodies after customs clearance.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry will accept applications for permission to deliver humanitarian aid to Abkhazia through diplomatic channels.

Russia's border guards will have information on the entry of humanitarian aid transports into Abkhazia.

Georgia's border and customs services will develop a mechanism for implementation of the decree and hold talks with the corresponding services in Russia.

The measures follow "the high crime rate in the whole Caucasus promoted by the mass intrusion of mercenaries, arms, drugs and smuggled goods in Abkhazia," the presidential press service told Interfax.

In addition, the decree has been caused by the impossibility of ensuring the safe service of foreign means of transportation in Abkhazia and in accordance with the decisions by the latest CIS summit in Moscow, it added.

Georgia: Chechen Link Suspected in Attack on Red Cross

AU3101184296 Paris AFP in English
1807 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tbilisi, Jan 29 (AFP) — Georgian authorities suspect Chechen gunmen in a shooting that wounded two Red Cross workers last week, the head of the Red Cross Federation said Wednesday [31 January].

"We've been told by the authorities that the preliminary investigation points to Chechens," George Weber, general secretary of the Geneva-based International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told AFP.

Two gunmen opened fire with automatic rifles on a van clearly marked with the Red Cross logo in western Georgia Saturday evening. Up to 60 bullets hit the van and two workers were wounded.

Abkhaz Speaker Says Russian Draft Protocol Unsatisfactory

LD3101184196 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1808 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 31 (Interfax) — The Russian-proposed draft protocol on the Georgian-Abkhazian settlement does not contain provisions on the equal status of both Georgia and Abkhazia and therefore cannot satisfy Abkhazia, Abkhazian Parliamentary Chairman Sokrat Dzhindzholiya told Interfax Wednesday.

"The Abkhazian parliament still insists on a confederation with Georgia, and this position remains unshakable," he added.

At the same time, Dzhindzholiya agreed that Russia's proposal on a single Georgian-Abkhazian state could be negotiated. The talks must be based on the April 4, 1994 statement on the political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, under which Abkhazia and Georgia delegated a number of powers to their joint competence.

This provision enables Abkhazia to be a subject of international law, Dzhindzholiya said.

"Only an independent state can delegate a part of its powers to the joint competence of two countries," he underlined.

The Abkhazian parliament will not ratify any negotiated agreement which contradicts the April 4, 1994 statement.

Abkhazian Leader Favors Equal Relations With Georgia

LD3101133096 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text][Correspondent] At a press conference in the State Duma today, Vladislav Ardzinba, the president of the self-proclaimed republic of Abkhazia, has assessed the latest decision by the Council of the Heads of State, which condemns the Abkhazian side's destructive stance. Ardzinba described the document as an attempt to pressurize Abkhazia, using "starvation and cold", to join Georgia on the latter's terms. Ardzinba said that Abkhazia is in favor of equal relations between Abkhazia and Georgia. It was stressed at the press conference that it is not important whether there will be a federation or confederation. The main thing is the nature of their relations.

[Ardzinba] This is not a whim. This is not a whim of the president of Abkhazia, for example, or of some kind of a group. This is how people feel. If we can go ahead and form such relations, these relations with Georgia should be equal. I can see nothing outrageous in this.

[Correspondent] Thus, Ardzinba dismissed any accusations of separatism and said that the Abkhazian side is

interested in the settlement. Ardzinba also expressed the hope that the new leadership of the foreign ministry will be paying more attention to the mentality of the Caucasus peoples and will be approaching the solution of the region's problems with more responsibility.

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